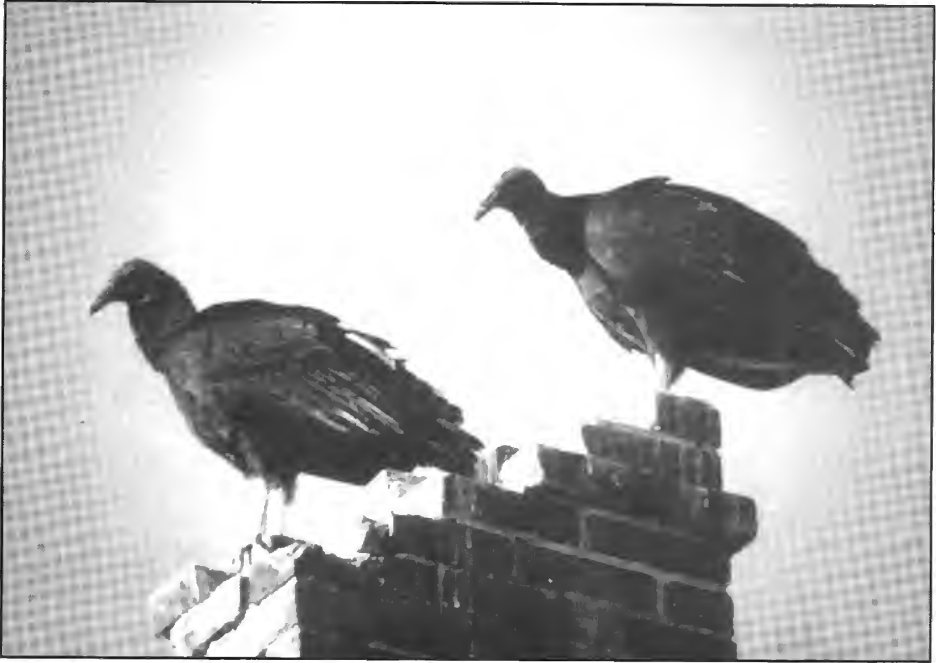




# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, Maryland 21209

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**Cover:** Black Vultures at Irish Grove Sanctuary, 1995

Photo by Al Haury



## FIRST SIGHTING OF A GUILLEMOT (*Cepphus* sp.) IN MARYLAND SINCE AUDUBON

JOY WHEELER

On March 11, 1993, I was with four other observers at the Westinghouse Electric Corporation Oceanic Division Pier, just south of the Bay Bridge (William Preston Lane, Jr. Memorial Bridge) in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. Earlier this day at nearby Bay Ridge we had observed a small number of Tundra Swans (*Cygnus columbianus*), Canada Geese (*Branta canadensis*), American Wigeon (*Anas americana*), Canvasbacks (*Aythya valisineria*), Oldsquaws (*Clangula hyemalis*), Common Goldeneyes (*Bucephala clangula*), Red-breasted Mergansers (*Mergus serrator*), and Hooded Mergansers (*Lophodytes cucullatus*). After a walk through the gardens of the Londontowne Publicke House at 12:30 p.m., we were not quite ready to go home.

Because the Westinghouse Pond has often had interesting birds reported, we went there. When we arrived and scanned the pond we saw nothing more than the birds we had seen earlier at Bay Ridge. Feeling emboldened by the absence of a guard at the Westinghouse Gate we drove through unchallenged and headed south through the parking lot, driving slowly to the end of the road and back again toward the entrance looking for birds on the water close to the shore. Still unchallenged, we parked at the entrance to the pier and walked out almost to the end, where we set up our scopes to determine the differences among the many scaup (*Aythya* sp.). A Horned Grebe (*Podiceps auritus*) was diving up and down among the scaup.

A bird then came into view that immediately drew the attention of all of us, first because of its neck, completely white from bill to waterline, and second, because of its obvious alcid configuration. We had all seen alcids in the northern Atlantic and in Pacific coastal waters, but none of us had ever seen an alcid in the winter in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. We were positive it was an alcid without turning to our field guides. We began to call the further characteristics of the bird, studying it as it swam rapidly, parallel to the end of the pier. In sharp contrast to the whiteness of the neck was the black wing showing three obvious, sharply defined white diagonal slashes on the closed wing. The back of the bird, which seemed more flat than the backs of the scaup and the grebe present, was mottled with black, dark gray, and white, giving it an overall dark appearance. The crown and nape were darkened, but not as dark as the wing or the mottling on the back. The white of the neck extended around in the front of the head above the bill. The head of the bird was somewhat more flattened on top and more elongated from

bill to nape than the rounded heads of the scaup. As the bird swam from the calmer waters at about 100 feet from the end of the pier to the choppy waters farther out, it moved its head forward to an almost 45-degree angle with its body and then straight up again, holding its bill always in an elevated position.

The light was excellent, with the sun in the west, behind the observers. Among us we had two Zeiss 10x40, 1 Leitz Trinovid 7x42, and 1 Swift 8.5x44 binoculars and 1 Questar 60x and 1 Bausch and Lomb 30x spotting scope. After we called all the above characteristics of the bird, we turned to the *Field Guide to the Birds of North America* (National Geographic Society 1987) to see just what kind of alcid this could be. We feel, after also referring to *Seabirds: An Identification Guide* (Harrison 1983) that the bird was a Black Guillemot (*Cephus grylle*), a first winter bird.

Unfortunately, by this time the Westinghouse security guard had found us and very politely, but firmly, suggested that we get permission from the main office to continue to be on the pier. Permission was not granted, however. We left, but not before an oyster boat churned in toward the pier and scattered all the birds, our alcid included. Our stay on the pier lasted from 45 minutes to an hour.

We alerted the Anne Arundel Bird Club, which sent at least one observer to check out our bird. The bird was not seen later that afternoon. The blizzard of the following three days limited further search and may have driven the bird from the Bay. We have not heard of it since. According to Robbins and Bystrak (1977) and Stewart and Robbins (1958), Audubon (1840-1844) had reported seeing Black Guillemot "as far south as the shores of Maryland." There have been no known reports since.

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531 Hampton Lane, Baltimore, MD 21286

[Received Sept. 23, 1993; publication withheld pending acceptance by the Maryland/D.C. Records Committee (see *Maryland Birdlife* 52:22), which, because of the difficulty in separating the Black Guillemot from the Pigeon Guillemot (*Cephus columba*) of the Pacific Ocean, "decided not to accept a specific identification based solely on geographic probability."—Ed.]



## FALL MIGRATION, AUGUST 1—NOVEMBER 30, 1995

**DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH**

The season was fairly dry with warm temperatures through September. October brought a few minor cold fronts, and there was a major frontal system in early November.

*Observers:* Henry & Liz Armistead, George Armistead, Todd Birutis, Rick Blom, Connie Bockstie, Larry Bonham, Bob Boxwell, Carol & Don Broderick, Pat & Caitlin Carlton, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Ian Cornelius, Steve Cornelius, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Dave Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Phil Davis, Deanna Dawson, Bill Dobbins, Paul DuMont, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Howard Elitzak, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Cecily Fritz, Kevin Graff, Gary Griffith, Jim Gruber, Dave & Maureen Harvey, Wilbur Hershberger, Marvin Hewitt, David Holmes, George Jett, Mike Kerwin, Dennis Kirkwood, Bill Kulp, Jr., Pat Lanahan, Doug Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Mike & Grazina McClure, Harvey Mudd, Paul & Carol Newman, Mariana Nuttle, Mike O'Brien, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Floyd Parks, Brian Patteson, Jim Paulus, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for Wicomico Bird Club), Paul Pisano, Marie Plante, Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Barbara Ross, Norm Saunders, Gene Scarpulla, Stephen Simon, Don Simonson, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Connie Skipper, Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Rick Sussman, Mary Ann Todd, Mary Twigg, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb (reporting for Harford County), Hal Wierenga, Joy Wheeler, Marcia Whitmyre, Jim Wilkinson, John Wortman, Helen Zeichner, Dave Ziolkowski. Banding was conducted this fall at Cherry Creek, Garrett County by Connie Skipper and Fran Pope, at PWRC by Deanna Dawson, and at Irvine Natural Science Center, Baltimore County by Barbara Ross and others.

*Abbreviations:* DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC - Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary (Frederick), Bird Island (Harford), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Bridge (Howard), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Eden Brook (Howard), Flag Ponds Park (Calvert), Gambrill SP (Frederick), Greenfield Road (Frederick), Gunpowder River (Harford), Harford

Glen (Harford), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove (Somerset), Irvine Natural Science Center, (Baltimore), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaquundi (Howard), Liberty Lake (Carroll unless noted otherwise), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Morgan Run Environmental Area (Carroll), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Mt. Pleasant (Howard), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Plum Tree Path (Howard), Purse SP (Charles), Remington Farms WMA (Kent), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Susquehanna SP (Harford), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Truitt Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany), Turkey Point (Cecil), Tydings Island (Harford), Violettes Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington/Frederick).

*Loons, Grebes.* Single **Red-throated Loons** were spotted at Hooper Island on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead), at Dames Quarter Creek on Oct. 29 (Ringler+), at Point Lookout on Nov. 5 (Tom Harton), at the mouth of the Choptank River, Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 23 (Webb), an unusual location for this species, and at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 24 (DuMont). **Common Loons** included 1 flying over Tilghman Island on Sept. 10 (Reese), 1 at Ocean City on Sept. 23 (Warfield), 52 at Assateague on Oct. 29 (Czaplak, Todd), 205 at the mouth of the Choptank River in Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), and 70 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 24, where the seasonal total was 159 (Paulus). Single **Pied-billed Grebes** were noted in Howard County at Centennial Lake and at Stanford Road Pond, Columbia on Aug. 1 (Zeichner, Farrell), and 2 were at Tydings Island on Aug. 25 (Webb). The 31 Pied-billeds at Centennial on Oct. 15 were unusually plentiful for Howard County (Ray & Norma Peterson). Thirty-three were at Piney Run the same day (Ringler). Seventy-five Pied-billeds were at the hydrilla in DC on Oct. 18 (Janni), 39 were at Tydings Island on Oct. 21 (Webb), and 36 were at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Simon). The lone Horned Grebe, extraordinarily early at Piney Run on Sept. 23, was probably a non-breeding straggler (Ringler). A solo **Horned Grebe** showed up at Burkittsville on Oct. 15 (I. & S. Cornelius), and others were 20 at Seneca on Nov. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), 25 at the Gunpowder River on Nov. 16 (Webb), 30 at Truitt Landing on Nov. 25 (Czaplak, Todd), and 16 at Point Lookout on Nov. 27 (Craig, Cribb). A solitary **Red-necked Grebe** was in Harris Creek, Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), and a **Western Grebe** was at Eastern Neck NWR on Nov. 24-26 (DuMont+).

*Shearwaters, Petrels, Gannets, Pelicans, Cormorants.* Eleven **Cory's Shearwaters**, 3 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, and over 100 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels** were located during the Sept. 10 pelagic trip out of Ocean City, mostly in Baltimore Canyon (Patteson+). Other Wilson's Storm-Petrels were 6 at the Ocean City inlet on Aug. 18 (Dyke), and 2 there on Aug. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Two **Northern Gannets** were at Ocean City on Aug. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), and others included 19 at Point Lookout on Nov. 19 (Boxwell), 20 at Rock Point/Cobb Island on Nov. 25 (Jett), and 200 at St. Clements Island, St. Mary's County on Nov. 26 (Ann Hobbs). A **Brown Pelican** turned up at Cedar Point, PRNAS on Aug. 14 (Rambo), 3 were at Crisfield on Sept. 23 (Czaplak, Todd), and a nice count of 124 pelicans was reported on Oct. 26 at Point Lookout (Craig), where 7 remained on Nov. 26 (Boxwell). Two immature **Great Cormorants** were at Conowingo from Oct. 8 through Nov. 5 with 1 remaining through Nov. 29 (Scarpulla+), 1 was at Point Lookout on Oct. 26 (Craig),



and 8 were at Ocean City on Nov. 24 (Czaplak, Todd). The numerous **Double-crested Cormorant** reports included 140 at Point Lookout on Aug. 8 (Craig), 5 at the Upper Elk River, Cecil County on Aug. 20 (Griffith), 55 at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese), 370 at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), 169 at Back River, Baltimore County on Sept. 24 (Scarpulla), 285 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 1 inland at Burkittsville on Oct. 14 (I. & S. Cornelius), 2000 at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Dyke), over 100 at Bel Alton on Nov. 5 (Jett), 75 at Conowingo on Nov. 12 (Blom), 20 at Morgantown on Nov. 17 (Jett), 1 at Triadelphia on Nov. 18 (Sussman), 1 at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County the same day (Sussman), 1 at Violettes Lock on Nov. 20 (Bonham), 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz), 4 the same day at Conowingo (Scarpulla), 50 at Ocean City on Nov. 26 (Saunders), 1 at Piney Run the same day and 1 at Tyaskin on Nov. 28 (Ringler). The seasonal total of Double-cresteds over Town Hill was 29 (Paulus).

*Herons, Ibis.* Solo **American Bitterns** were discovered at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 27 (Czaplak, Todd), at David Force Park WMA, Howard County on Sept. 30 (Michele Wright), at Irish Grove on Oct. 28 (Ringler), at Lily Pons on Oct. 29 (Pisano), with 2 there on Nov. 4 and 1 through Nov. 19 (Lori Kay Brown, Warfield), at Alpha Ridge Park in Howard County on Nov. 3 (Solem), and in Kent County on Nov. 26 (Czaplak, Todd). Single **Least Bitterns** were found on Sept. 2 at the Gunpowder River delta (Ziolkowski), and on Sept. 16 at Jug Bay (DuMont), at Woodmark Lake in Howard County (M. McClure), and at the C&O Canal in Washington County (I. Cornelius, Stasz). Fifty-eight **Great Blue Herons** were tallied at Conowingo on Sept. 30 (Blom, Scarpulla). **Great Egrets** included 135 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 and 14 at Ridgely on Aug. 8 (Iliff, Stasz), 23 at a fish hatchery near Route 15 in Frederick County on Aug. 13 (Hershberger), 32 at Beaver Creek Pond, Washington County on Aug. 15 (Gail Ottlinger), 12 at Waldorf on Aug. 26-28 and 14 at the Bumpy Oak Road swamp area in Charles County on Sept. 4 (Jett), 1 at the C&O Canal, Washington County on Sept. 16 (I. Cornelius, Stasz), 1 at Centennial on Oct. 18 (Kerwin), 21 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), 1 at Seneca on Oct. 30 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Lily Pons on Nov. 4 (I. Cornelius+), 2 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont), and 1 at Scotland on Nov. 27 (Craig, Cribb). **Snowy Egrets** of note were 1 at Mattawoman on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Jett, Stasz), 19 at Bellevue on Sept. 23 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Centennial on Oct. 18 (Kerwin). Ten **Little Blue Herons** were checked off at PWRC on Aug. 11 (Iliff), 3 were seen in Waldorf on Aug. 19 (Jett) and 1 at Loch Raven on Oct. 6 (Simon). Eighteen **Tricolored Herons** were at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and 2 were at Tilghman Island on Aug. 6 (Reese). **Cattle Egrets** were 57 at Courthouse Point WMA on Aug. 1 (Griffith, Holmes), 6 at Little Eagle Road, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 20 (Stasz), 35 at Harwood on Sept. 22 (Chris Swarth), 30 at Cayot's Corner, Cecil County on Sept. 23 (Griffith), 30 at Blackwater on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 4 at Scotland on Oct. 25 (Craig), and 1 in Howard County at Fulton on Nov. 15 and at Route 216 and Hall Shop Road on Nov. 16 (Farrell, Solem). Late single **Green Herons** were at Allens Fresh on Oct. 29 (Jett) and at Piney Run on Nov. 5 (Ringler). High counts for the Green Heron were 46 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 11 at Loch Raven on Aug. 20 (Simon, Kye Jenkins), and 12 at Bellevue on Sept. 10 (Armisteads). Dave Webb listed 28 **Black-crowned Night-Herons** at Conowingo on Aug. 27, and 9 were at Fair Hill on Sept. 3 (Whitmyre). Single Black-crowned were at Wilde Lake on Oct. 9 (Newmans) and at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Fore Bay Pond near Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 13 (Darius Ecker). Other Yellow-crowned were 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Aug. 13 (Vic Wolf), an immature at Harford Glen sporadically from Aug. 25 to Sept. 18 (Kirkwood+), and 1 at Sligo Creek, Montgomery County on Aug. 26 (Norm

Saunders). From 1 to 3 **Glossy Ibis** were at PWRC, Aug. 1-11 (Osenton), about 200 were near Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 13 (Reese), and 3 were near Ocean City on Aug. 20 (DuMont).

*Swans, Geese.* Ten **Tundra Swans** were early at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead), 23 were at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), and 590 flew over Washington Monument SP on Nov. 4 (Fritz, Paul Newton). On Nov. 5, Harry and Liz Armistead totaled 2715 Tundras for a new high at Bellevue. Over 1800 Tundra Swans were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese), and 1365 were noted for the season at Town Hill (Paulus), with over 275 there on Nov. 4 (Ringler). About 3000 Tundras were reported at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). Jan Reese counted 92 **Mute Swans** at Claiborne on Sept. 17 and 85 on the Wye River, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties on Nov. 11. A single immature Mute was found north at Havre de Grace on Nov. 11 (Wortman+). One to two **Black Swans** were observed at Eastern Neck from Nov. 11 to Nov. 25 (Roger Dodd, DuMont+). **Greater White-fronted Geese** were identified this season with an adult near Pocomoke City, the same site as last winter, from Oct. 29 through at least Nov. 29 (Ringler+). Another was at Hurlock on Nov. 20 (Churchill), 1 at Hambleton Creek pond, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 24 (DuMont), and an adult at Remington Farms on Nov. 25 (Ringler+). A probable adult **Greater White-fronted X Canada Goose** was at Chestertown sewage lagoons on Nov. 25 (Ringler). The **Snow Goose** at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Churchill) probably summered locally. Migrants were 4 of the blue race at Madonna on Oct. 23 (Kirkwood), 30 at St. Mary's City on Oct. 28 (Tyler Bell), 2000 at Dudley Corners on Oct. 29 (Farrell), and 1500, with 1000 of them blues, at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (Harry & George Armistead). Five thousand Snows were at Chestertown on Nov. 18 (Jim Gruber), 3300 were at Hurlock on Nov. 20 (Churchill), and an adult Blue was at Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler). A **Ross' Goose** was discovered at Dudley Corners on Oct. 29 (Farrell), and another was present at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Czaplak, Todd), with 4 there on Nov. 25 (Pisano, P. & J. O'Brien). Eight **Brant** were at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 was at DC on Nov. 12 (John Gottschalk), and 500 were at Assateague on Nov. 26 (Saunders). Summer congregations of **Canada Geese** were present with 200 at Piney Run on Aug. 9 and 600 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 3-10 (Ringler), and 304 at Loch Raven on Sept. 12 (Simon). A small race Canada was at Bellevue on Sept. 23 (H. Armistead), and other small race birds were single sightings at a farm pond between Westminster and Union Mills on Oct. 15 and at Piney Run on Oct. 22 and Nov. 26 (Ringler), and another in St. Mary's County on Nov. 10 (Craig).

*Dabbling Ducks.* Nice counts of **Wood Ducks** were 75 at Ravenwood Road, Dorchester County on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 63 at Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 16 (Magnusson), 46 at Bellevue on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), and 30 at Queenstown on Nov. 16 (Poet). Late Wood Ducks included 1 at Loch Raven on Nov. 21 (Simon), and 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). The first migrant **Green-winged Teal** were 2 at Dames Quarter on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 200 were at Blackwater on Sept. 4 (Czaplak, Todd), 37 at Cecilton on Sept. 20 (Stasz), 400 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), 35 at Clark's Farm in Howard County on Oct. 30 (Wallace), at least 80 at Tanyard on Nov. 21 (Lanahan), 43 near Frederick on Nov. 24 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 82 at Loch Raven on Nov. 26 (Simon+). Ian and Steve Cornelius totaled 209 **American Black Ducks** at Burkittsville on Nov. 18, and 300 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). A **Mallard X Wood Duck hybrid** was reported at Centennial Park on Sept. 14 and Oct. 31 (Farrell). A large summer flock of 130 **Mallards** was at Piney Run on Aug. 4 (Ringler); 235 were found in Caroline County on Aug. 11 (H. Armistead). Over 600 Mallards were at Blackwater on Nov.



5 (H. & L. Armistead), 1000 were on the Wye River, Queen Anne's and Talbot counties on Nov. 11 (Reese), 221 were at Burkittsville on Nov. 18 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 300 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Highs for **Northern Pintail** were 300 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), and 400 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead). Highs for **Blue-winged Teal** were 31 at Chesapeake City on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Stasz, Blom), 40 on the Susquehanna River below Conowingo Dam on Sept. 4 (Webb), and a flock of 120 females and immature males at Centennial on Sept. 14 (Farrell, Solem). Lone Blue-wingeds were at Lily Pons on Oct. 29 (Pisano), at Deal Island WMA the same day (Ringler), and near Grasonville on Nov. 24 (Iliff, Stasz). **Northern Shovelers** of note were 2 at Ridgely on Aug. 11 and 6 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 2 at Chesapeake City on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Stasz, Blom), 50 at Hurlock on Sept. 20 (Churchill), 12 at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on Nov. 19 (Jett), 15 at Northgate, Cecil County on Nov. 26 (Griffith), and 42 at Remington Farms the same day (Stasz). **Gadwalls** included an early 1 at Cecilton on Sept. 20 (Stasz), 105 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead), the high at Piney Run of 59 on Nov. 12 (Ringler), 21 at Burkittsville on Nov. 24 (I. & S. Cornelius), 200 at Eastern Neck the same day (DuMont), and 31 at Loch Raven on Nov. 27 (Simon). Four drake **Eurasian Wigeons** were identified at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler+), another was at Tydings Island on Nov. 11-12 (Webb), and 1 to 2 were noted at Eastern Neck from Nov. 24 (DuMont) to Nov. 26 (Stasz, Jett). The first migrant **American Wigeons** were 5 at Piney Run on Sept. 10 (Ringler), and 1 was at Allens Fresh on Sept. 16 (Jett). Others were 47 at Tydings Island on Oct. 28 (Webb), 50 at Cecilton on Oct. 26 (Griffith), the high of 5000 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), 165 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon), 33 near Frederick on Nov. 24 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 600 at Eastern Neck the same day (DuMont).

*Diving Ducks.* **Canvasbacks** arrived with 3 at Remington Farms on Oct. 15 (Gruber), and 3 at Tydings Island on Oct. 21 (Webb). About 2000 were reported at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). Two **Redheads** were on the Gunpowder River on Oct. 27 (Webb), and 40 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Ringler). The female **Ring-necked Duck** at Piney Run on Sept. 21 was early; the high there was 200 on Nov. 12 (Ringler). Other Ring-neckeds included 4 in DC on Oct. 12 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 in Frederick County on Oct. 14 (I. & S. Cornelius), 35 at Tydings Island on Oct. 21 (Webb), and 210 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon). A **Greater Scaup** was at Harford Glen, an unusual inland location, on Oct. 18 (Wortman), 100 were on the Potomac River in Charles and St. Mary's counties on Nov. 18 (Val Kitchens), and 3500 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Dave Webb tallied 15,000 **Lesser Scaups** on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 23; 1500 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). A single male **King Eider** was reported flying by Ocean City on Nov. 15 (Czaplak, Todd). Single **Harlequin Ducks** were noted at Ocean City on Nov. 15 (Craig Faanes), and Nov. 26 (Davis). **Oldsquaws** included 1 at Denton on Nov. 6-8 (D. Ford), 475 around the mouth of the Choptank River in Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer), 11 at Great Falls, Montgomery County on Nov. 21 (Linda Friedland), 70 at Cobb Island on Nov. 25 (Jett), 1 at Violettes Lock on Nov. 30 (Bonham), 18 on Conowingo Lake on Nov. 30 (Blom), and over 1000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). Two **Black Scoters** were at Matapeake SP, Queen Anne's County on Aug. 9 (Weesner), 1 was at Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Jett), 1 was at North Beach on Sept. 18 (Stasz), and on Nov. 27, 50 were notched at Point Lookout (Cribb, Craig), and 2 were inland at Highland Lake, Howard County (Chestem). Two **Surf Scoters** were discovered on the Gunpowder River on Oct. 22-27 (Webb), 395 were at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead), 1 was at Seneca on Nov. 2 (Czaplak, Todd), 100 were at Point Lookout on Nov. 13-27

(Cribb, Craig), and 1 was at Rocky Gap SP on Oct. 29 (Twigg). **White-winged Scoters** were also noted with 1 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon), 2 on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 23 (Webb), and 200 at Point Lookout on Nov. 27 (Craig, Cribb). About 10,000 unidentified scoters were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). The summering drake **Bufflehead** on the Susquehanna River below Conowingo was seen through Sept. 30 (Wortman+). Migrant Buffleheads were 47 at Piney Run on Nov. 5 (Ringler); 80 at Little Seneca Lake (Elitzak), and 70 at Triadelphia (Farrell, Solem) the same day, 55 at Queenstown on Nov. 10 (Poet); 200 on the Wye River, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 11 (Reese); 525 at the mouth of the Choptank River in Talbot County on Nov. 20 (H. Armistead, Spitzer); 500 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 22-23 (Wheeler); 200 at Truitt Landing (Czaplak, Todd), 300 at Rock Point and Cobb Island (Jett), and 126 at Kent Island (Poet), all on Nov. 25; and 300 at Assateague on Nov. 26 (Saunders). The first two **Hooded Mergansers** at Piney Run were noted on Oct. 22 with 60 there on Nov. 26 (Ringler); 20 were at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). A **Common Merganser** was at Seneca on Nov. 17 (Simonson), and a **Red-breasted Merganser**, which probably summered, was at Wenona on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz). Single **Ruddy Ducks** were at Loch Raven on Sept. 28 (Simon), at Point Lookout on Sept. 30 (Boxwell), and at Piney Run on Sept. 30 (Ringler). Other Ruddies were 500 at Remington Farms and 1000 at Chestertown on Oct. 15 (Gruber), 125 at Piney Run on Nov. 12 (Ringler), and 2000 at Woodberry Beach, Charles County on Nov. 18 (Jett).

*Vultures, Ospreys, Bald Eagles, Mississippi Kite, Harriers.* Ethel Engle counted 32 **Black Vultures** at Tanyard on Aug. 9, and Jim Paulus spotted a kettle of 35 at Town Hill on Sept. 27. Others were 18 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 52 at Triadelphia on Oct. 14 (Farrell, Solem), and 127 at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Turkey Vultures** of interest were 157 at Tanyard on Aug. 22 (Engle), 52 at Mardela Springs on Sept. 15 (Reese), 113 at Maryland Heights on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius), 107 at Hooper Island on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead), 97 at Turkey Point on Oct. 18 (Griffith+), 115 at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Scarpulla), and 79 in a single kettle for a new high at Bellevue on Nov. 5 (Harry & Liz Armistead). Early migrant **Ospreys** included 1 at Triadelphia Mill Road, Howard County on Aug. 6 (Wallace), 1 at Liberty Lake on Aug. 12 (Ringler), 16 on the hydrilla in DC on Aug. 13 (Czaplak, Todd), whereas late birds were 1 at Triadelphia on Nov. 5 (Farrell, Solem), 1 at Piney Run on Nov. 18, being attacked by 2 Bald Eagles (Ringler), 1 on Tilghman Island on Nov. 19 (Reese, Willey), 1 at George Island Landing on Nov. 25 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at Denton on Nov. 28 (Nuttle). There were three reports of **Mississippi Kites** in August; 1 at PRNAS on the 15th (Rambo), 1 at Dameron on the 25th (Craig), and 1 at Town Hill on the 27th (Paulus and Teresa Simons). A **Swallow-tailed Kite** was reported at Turkey Point on Oct. 13 (Whitmyre, June Vaughn). Eleven **Bald Eagles** were at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), a solo eagle was at Frederick on Oct. 21 (David Smith+), 21 were checked off at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Scarpulla), and 30 were notched at Turkey Point on Nov. 9 (Griffith+). An immature **Northern Harrier** was seen at Union Bridge on Aug. 20 (Ringler, Kulp), another was at Perryman the same day (Webb), 1 was at Elkton on Aug. 23 (Griffith), and 2 were at Sycamore Landing on Aug. 25 (Bonham).

*Accipiters, Buteos, Golden Eagles. Sharp-shinned Hawks* began with single sightings at Ashton on Aug. 7 (Sussman), at David Force Park WMA in Howard County on Aug. 10 (Jo & Bob Solem), and at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese). Eighty-nine sharpies were notched at the Turkey Point Hawkwatch on Sept. 16 (Griffith+), and 463 were tallied at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead). A **Cooper's Hawk** was checked off at Hog Island, Caroline County on Aug. 11 (H.

Armistead), another was near Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 12 (Wilkinson), and 1 was at Port Tobacco on Aug. 26 (Jett, Stasz). Others included 17 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), and 12 at Turkey Point (fide Griffith) on Oct. 13. Jim Paulus identified an immature **Northern Goshawk** at Town Hill on Sept. 19, 1 was reported at Assateague on Oct. 29 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at Maryland Heights on Nov. 5 (Craig Faanes). Jan Reese counted 15 **Red-shouldered Hawks** at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5. Some interesting **Broad-winged Hawk** sightings were 1 at Dameron on Aug. 25 (Craig), 199 in one hour at Rocks SP in Harford County on Sept. 15 (Webb), 185 over White Avenue in Baltimore on Sept. 23 (Graff), 279 in western Howard County on Sept. 27 (Wes Earp, Bob Solem), 15 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), and 1 at Centennial on Nov. 4 (Farrell, Solem). Fifteen **Red-tailed Hawks** were noted at Hooper Island on Oct. 8, and 19 were there on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead). Others included 140 at Turkey Point on Nov. 4 (fide Griffith), 42 at Laurel on Nov. 5 (Osenton), 107 at DC on Nov. 10 (Janni), and 30 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Iliff, Stasz). Harry and Liz Armistead listed 23 Red-tails at Bellevue, for a new high there, on Nov. 4, and also spotted an immature **Golden Eagle** at Blackwater on Nov. 5. Another immature Golden was at Conowingo, Nov. 12-29 (Blom+), and others included solo sightings in DC on Nov. 9 (Janni), at Hughes Hollow the same day (Cindy Loper), at Glen Echo on Nov. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), and at North East on Nov. 26 (Griffith). Rough-legged Hawks included single birds at Northgate, Cecil County on Nov. 11 (Griffith), Elliott Island on Nov. 23 (Czaplak, Todd), Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont), and a dark phase at Piney Run the same day (Stasz).

## HAWK MIGRATION AT TOWN HILL, ALLEGANY COUNTY, FALL 1995

COMPILED BY JIM PAULUS

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	8/21	10/29	64	8 on 10/1, 5 on 9/23
Mississippi Kite	8/27		1	Documented
Bald Eagle	8/26	11/24	21	7 on 9/2, 2 on 9/20
Northern Harrier	8/22	11/19	62	6 on 10/21, 4 on 10/3
Sharp-shinned Hawk	8/22	11/30	1019	106 on 10/7, 63 on 10/8
Cooper's Hawk	8/24	11/30	141	19 on 10/7, 10 on 10/13
Northern Goshawk	9/19	11/9	6	2 on 10/29
Red-shouldered Hawk	8/21	11/28	82	7 on 10/31, 7 on 11/4
Broad-winged Hawk	8/21	10/12	1382	462 on 9/19, 418 on 9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	8/21	11/30	1054	143 on 10/29, 124 on 11/4
Rough-legged Hawk	11/9	11/16	4	
Golden Eagle	10/7	11/30	37	11 on 11/8, 6 on 11/9
American Kestrel	8/21	11/5	151	20 on 10/7, 15 on 9/27
Merlin	9/18	11/17	20	2 on 9/24, 2 on 10/15
Peregrine Falcon	9/23	10/30	16	4 on 9/24, 3 on 10/1
Unidentified			61	
Total	8/21	11/30	4121	504 on 9/19, 440 on 9/18
(369 hours)				

*Falcons.* Patty Craig counted 18 **American Kestrels** at Scotland on Aug. 31 and Harry Armistead totaled 66 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8. **Merlins** included 1 at Crisfield on Aug. 23 (Churchill), another at Turkey Point on Sept. 1, 2 at Dameron on Sept. 7 (Craig), 1 near Ellicott City, Sept. 8-19 (Ott), 1 near Lily Pons on Sept. 16 (Churchill), 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 17 (Zeichner), 1 at Liberty Lake the same day (Ringler), 1 at Lake Kittamaquundi on Sept. 23 (Chestem), 2 over White Avenue, Baltimore on Sept. 27 (Graff), 2 at Town Hill on Oct. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at Ashton on Nov. 2-16 (Sussman). Single **Peregrine Falcons** were at Camp Rodney, Cecil County on Aug. 20 (Griffith), at Conowingo on Sept. 9 (Blom, Scarpulla), at Bellevue (immature male) on Sept. 16 (Harry, George, & Liz Armistead), at Dameron on Sept. 26 (Craig), in DC on Oct. 2 (Jett), at Mariner Point Park in Harford County on Oct. 13 (Harold Boling), in Frederick County on Oct. 21 (Smith), at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 15 (Michael Bowen), and an immature was chasing shorebirds at Liberty Lake on Sept. 16 and again on Sept. 23 (Ringler+).

*Gallinaceous Birds.* Rick Sussman reported a nice sighting of a female **Ring-necked Pheasant** and at least 10 young off River Road in Montgomery County on Aug. 12, and John Churchill noted one at Tudor Farm in Dorchester County on Sept. 21. **Wild Turkeys** were found with 28 at Ravenwood Road in Dorchester County on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz); 18 at New Bridge Road, Cecil County on Aug. 17 (Griffith); 35 at Roop Road, Cecil County on Aug. 22 (Schultz), and 1 at Centreville on Sept. 12, at Taylors Island on Oct. 7, and at Starr on Oct. 9 (Reese, Levin Willey). Marvin Hewitt notched 17 turkeys at Greensboro on Oct. 26, Dave Harvey checked off 2 near Marriottsville on Nov. 9, and Wayne Abbott reported 5 at Prettyboy Reservoir on Nov. 29. A female **Northern Bobwhite** was flushed off a nest with 7 eggs at Bellevue on Sept. 10, was seen on the nest again on Sept. 16, and four of the eggs were hatched by Oct. 5; a total of 22 bobwhites were seen at Bellevue on Oct. 9 (H. Armistead). Seventeen bobwhites were near Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese), 2 were at Schooley Mill on Sept. 16 (Magnusson) with reports there through Oct. 2 (Solem+), and 19 were at Preston on Oct. 30 (Wilbur Engle).

*Rails, Coots, Sandhill Cranes.* Fourteen **Clapper Rails** were listed at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and 22 were totaled at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 along with 34 Virginia Rails (H. Armistead). A **Virginia Rail** was observed for several minutes near the Cherry Creek banding station on Sept 27 (Skipper, Gary Yoder). Early **Soras** were 1 at Mt. Nebo WMA, Garrett County on Aug. 11 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Chestertown on Aug. 20 (Gruber), 1 at Centennial on Aug. 26 (Ott, Zeichner, Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 2 at Pennyfield on Sept. 2 (Bonham), 8 at the Gunpowder River delta the same day (Ziolkowski), and 1 at the Korean War Memorial in DC on Sept. 3 (Eric Boswell). The Sora at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 1 (Czaplak, Todd) was very late for the Piedmont. A **Common Moorhen** was at Tanyard on Aug. 2 and an adult and 2 juveniles were there on Aug. 9 (Engle), 4 were seen there Aug. 11 (H. Armistead), 5 were age Road in Dorchester County on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and single reports were made at Hughes Hollow on Aug. 6 (Sussman), at Hog Island on Aug. 11 (H. Armistead), at E.A. Vaughn WMA, Worcester County on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd), near Cecilton on Sept. 4 (Griffith, Fogleman), and at PWRC on Oct. 9 (Osenton+). **American Coots** began with 1 at Havre de Grace on Sept. 2 (Ringler, Stasz, Blom), 1 at Piney Run on Sept. 21 (Ringler), and 2 at Loch Raven on Sept. 28, where 200 were estimated on Oct. 6, climbing to 1400 on Nov. 21 (Simon). Other interesting coots were 50 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 8 (Warfield), 200 at Deal Island WMA on Oct. 29 (Ringler), 1400 at Tydings Island on Nov. 12 (Blom), 1200 on the hydrilla in DC on Nov. 18 (Janni), 65 at North East the same day (Griffith), 500 at Piney Run from Nov. 23 into December (Ringler), 62 at



Burkittsville on Nov. 24 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 150 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 25 (Ilf, Stasz). Two **Sandhill Cranes** were reported by many birders in Montgomery County off River Road from Aug. 4 (Jim Green) through Aug. 26 (Czaplak, Todd).

*Plovers, Avocets.* **Black-bellied Plovers** began with 1 near Riley Roberts Road, Somerset County on Aug. 5 and 4 at Deal Island WMA (Ilf, Stasz); 2 were at PRNAS on Aug. 6 (Lister). Others included 1 near Poolesville on Aug. 7 (Lew Komarow), 6 in Queen Anne's County on Aug. 8 (Ilf), 2, including 1 juvenile, at Triadelphia on Sept. 16, with the juvenile seen again on Sept. 20 (Magnusson), 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 23—Oct. 1 (Ringler, Boyd), and 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). **Lesser Golden-Plovers** were noted this season with 2 at Hurlock on Aug. 20 (Jett, Stasz, Claudia Wilds), 1 in breeding plumage at Aberdeen Proving Ground on Sept. 2 (Blom, Ringler, Stasz), 1 in Washington County on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius), 3 at Hurlock on Sept. 20 (Churchill), 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 23 (Ringler, Boyd), 2-3 at PRNAS from Sept. 25-27 (Rambo), 6 at North Branch on Sept. 2 (Twigg), and 1 near Bird Island from Oct. 1-2 (Webb). Two of the endangered **Piping Plovers** were located at Assateague on Sept. 10 (Patteson+). Doug Lister counted 36 **Killdeer** at PRNAS on Aug. 6, and others included 50 at Chuck Wade Turf Farm in Frederick County on Aug. 12 (Hershberger), 115 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 45 at Browns Bridge on Sept. 10 (Saunders), 106 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10 (Ringler), 90 at Aldino Sod Farm, Harford County on Sept. 22 (Webb), 33 at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on Oct. 15 (Jett, Stasz), 101 at Scotland on Oct. 25 (Craig), and 105 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead). The **American Oystercatcher** at Smith Island on Sept. 2 (Czaplak, Todd) was an interesting sighting, and a **Black-necked Stilt** was at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz). An **American Avocet** visited Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), where 1 was seen on Sept. 4 (Czaplak, Todd), and a female American Avocet, for the second Howard County record, was at Fulton on Sept. 9 (Osenton, Solem), and seen by many observers on Sept. 10 (Southworths+). Another avocet was at Ocean City on Nov. 26 (Saunders).

*Tringine Sandpipers.* **Greater Yellowlegs** of note were 37 at Shorter's Wharf, Dorchester County and 38 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz), and 4 at Pomonkey Creek, Charles County on Nov. 19 (Jett). Twenty-six **Lesser Yellowlegs** were discovered at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz), 31 at Cecilton on Aug. 5 (Griffith, Powers), 35 there on Sept. 2 (Blom, Ringler, Stasz), and 20 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 16 (Ringler). The last **Solitary Sandpiper** was noted at Harney Road Pond, Frederick County on Oct. 15 (Hershberger). Eight **Willetts** were at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Ilf, Stasz), and 2 were near Point Lookout on Aug. 8 (Craig). Ringler located 14 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Liberty Lake on Aug. 26, and later birds were 1 at North East on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes), and 3 at Point Lookout on Nov. 13 (Craig). **Upland Sandpipers** included: 3 on Aug. 1 at Cecilton (Griffith, Holmes), 11 on Aug. 5 at Easton Airport (Reese), 41 on Aug. 6 at PRNAS (Lister), 2 on Aug. 8 in Queen Anne's County (Ilf), 8 on Aug. 11 in Caroline County (H. Armistead), 1 on Aug. 12 near Lily Pons (Hershberger), 1 on Aug. 18 at Perryman (Blom), 2 on Aug. 20 at Salisbury Airport (Pisano), 1 on Aug. 29 at Hurlock (Ilf), and 1 on Sept. 4 at Assateague (Czaplak, Todd). An Upland was also reported on Nov. 4, an unusual date, near Lily Pons (Steve Huy, I. Cornelius). A dead Whimbrel was found on a road near PRNAS on Aug. 30 (Rambo).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* A **Ruddy Turnstone** turned up at the hydrilla in DC on Aug. 27 (Janni), where a **Sanderling** was located the same day (Czaplak,



Todd). Two immature Sanderlings were a nice surprise near Bird Island, Sept. 8-9, for the second Harford County record (Webb+). Others included 1 inland at Triadelphia Reservoir on Sept. 10 (Stirrat), and another that made Liberty Lake home during Sept. 16-23 (Ringler). Eight Sanderlings were found at PRNAS on Sept. 26 (Rambo). A local record high of 200 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** were at Liberty Lake, after a storm, on Aug. 5 (Ringler), and 100 semipalms were at Ridgely earlier on Aug. 2 (Iliff, Stasz). Others of note were 40 at Loch Raven on Aug. 25 (Simon+), 50 at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Iliff), and 65 at Cecilton on Aug. 30 (Griffith, Fogleman, Charles Gant). Reports of **Western Sandpipers** were numerous including: 1 at Ridgely on Aug. 2 (Iliff), 1-2 at Liberty Lake on Aug. 5-26 (Ringler), 3 at PRNAS on Aug. 17 (Rambo, Lister), 8 at Perryman on Aug. 17 (Webb+), 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 20 (Simon, Jenkins), 4 at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Iliff), 25 at Cecilton on Sept. 2 (Blom, Ringler, Stasz), 20 at Conowingo on Sept. 3 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 15 at Waldorf on Sept. 4 (Ringler+). A **Red-necked Stint** was reported in West Ocean City by many birders, Aug. 19-20 (O'Brien, Czaplak+). Interesting **Least Sandpipers** were 31 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), 15 at Waldorf on Aug. 26 (Jett, Stasz), 25 at Liberty Lake the same day (Ringler), 20 at Hurlock on Aug. 29 (Iliff), 32 at Cecilton on Sept. 3 (Griffith), and 30 at North Branch on Oct. 8 (Twigg). **White-rumped Sandpipers** made a nice showing this fall with numerous reports such as 1 at Loch Raven on Aug. 20 (Simon, Jenkins), 1 in West Ocean City the same day (DuMont), 1 in DC on Aug. 27 (Czaplak, Todd), 2 at Hurlock on Aug. 27 (Phil Olsen), up to 3 at Conowingo on Sept. 2-4 (Scarpulla, Blom), 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10 and 2 there on Sept. 16-24 (Ringler). Harry Armistead found a new 'yard' bird at Bellevue when a White-rumped visited on Sept. 23rd, 7 were in Ocean City the same day (Czaplak, Todd), 1 was at Allens Fresh on Oct. 8 (Jett), and 2 were at North Branch on Oct. 21 (Twigg). Bob Ringler had 2 **Baird's Sandpipers** at Liberty Lake on Aug. 26, 1 or 2 of these nice-to-find birds were at Cecilton, for the first Cecil County record, Aug. 30—Sept. 8 (Mudd, Griffith+), and another was in West Ocean City on Sept. 20 (Dyke). Mary Twigg tallied 40 **Pectoral Sandpipers** at North Branch on Oct. 6. Earlier Pectoral sightings included 35 at Ridgely on Aug. 2 and 24 at Deal Island WMA on Aug. 5 (Iliff, Stasz), and 17 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10 (Ringler). **Purple Sandpipers** began with 2 at Point Lookout on Nov. 12 (Tom Harten), and interesting **Dunlins** were: 2 at Bird Island on Oct. 3 (Mudd), 1 at Allens Fresh on Oct. 8 (Jett), 2 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 22 and 1 there Nov. 5 (Ringler), 225 at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (H. & L. Armistead), and 14 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont). Adding to the nice variety of shorebirds this season were **Stilt Sandpipers** with 1 at Cecilton on Aug. 1 (Griffith, Holmes), and Sept. 2-6 (Ringler+); 2 at Ridgely on Aug. 2 (Iliff); 1 in Waldorf on Aug. 26-28 (Jett); 3 near Bird Island on the Susquehanna, Sept. 2-4 (Blom+); 1 at Liberty Lake on Sept. 10-16, and Oct. 1-8 (Ringler); and 1 at Lily Pons on Oct. 4 (Ricciardi), and Oct. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Two tough-to-find **Buff-breasted Sandpipers** were at Hurlock on Aug. 20 (Jett, Stasz), and the single Buff-breasted at Aldino, Harford County from Aug. 20 (Claudia Wilds+) to Sept. 2 (Czaplak+) was reported by many birders and was the first Harford County record (Webb). Another Buff-breasted was discovered at West Ocean City on Aug. 23 (Dyke).

*Dowitchers, Snipe, Woodcock, Phalaropes.* At Cecilton, on Aug. 5, were 134 **Short-billed Dowitchers** (Griffith, Powers), another was at Liberty Lake on August 26 (Ringler), and 2 immatures were near Bird Island on the Susquehanna River from Aug. 27 to Sept. 4 (Webb). Long-billed Dowitchers included 12 at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 10 (Davis, Wierenga), 1 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 1 (Ringler, Hoffman+), 1 at West Ocean City on Oct. 28 (Czaplak, Todd), and 5 at Chance on Oct. 29 (Ringler). The solo **Common Snipe** sightings at Blackwater on Aug. 19

(Davidson, Wierenga), at Liberty Lake on Sept. 2 (Ringler), and at Cecilton (Griffith, Fogleman) and Mattawoman on Sept. 4 (Ringler, Stasz+) were a little early. Fifteen Snipe were at Tanyard on Nov. 21 (Lanahan), and 11 were at PRNAS on Nov. 24 (Lister). An **American Woodcock** was noted at Daniels on Sept. 10 (Randy Crook, Stirrat, Harveys), 1 was seen at Cherry Creek banding station on Sept 15 (Skipper, Pope), and 4 were at Laurel on Nov. 19 (Sussman). Mark Farmer reported 7 **Wilson's Phalaropes** at the hydrilla in DC on Aug. 18, 1 was found in West Ocean City on Aug. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), and 2 were at Hurlock on Sept. 3 (Phil Olsen).

*Jaegers, Gulls.* A **Parasitic Jaeger** and an unidentified jaeger were spotted on the pelagic trip out of Ocean City on Sept. 10 (Patteson+). There were several interesting reports of **Laughing Gulls** this season. Five were at the Upper Elk River in Cecil County on Aug. 20 (Griffith), 18 were at Conowingo on Sept. 3 (Scarpulla, Blom), 570 were tallied during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 16, and 1 was at Liberty Lake on Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 (Ringler). A **Laugher** was at the Mall in DC on Sept. 25 (Jim Felley); 474 at Back River, Baltimore County on Oct. 1 (Scarpulla); 1 at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 15 (Stirrat, Richard & Randy Crook); 8 at North East on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes); 375 at Bellevue and 550 at Blackwater on Oct. 22, and 910 at Hooper Island on Oct. 23 (H. Armistead+); 250 at Hains Point on Oct. 29 (Elitzak); 475 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (H. & G. Armistead); 1 at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla); 1 at Eastern Neck on Nov. 24 (DuMont); and 30 at Easton on Nov. 28 (Ringler). A **Franklin's Gull** was reported in DC at Flener). Four early **Bonaparte's Gulls** were at Centennial Park on Oct. 22 (Zeichner), 26 were at Triadelphia on Nov. 16 (Farrell, Solem), and 200 were at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom). Gene Scarpulla and Rick Blom tallied 709 Ring-billed Gulls on Sept. 3 at Conowingo and 7000 there on Nov. 19. On Nov. 23, Mike O'Brien reported 2500 Ring-billeds in Ocean City. Three thousand **Herring Gulls** and two **Thayer's Gulls** were checked off at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom). George and Harry Armistead tallied 1250 Herring Gulls at Blackwater on Nov. 12. **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 1 at North Beach on Sept. 25 (Stasz); 1 in Charles County on Oct. 8 (Jett); 2 at Georgetown Reservoir (Dobbins), 1 at Tydings Island (Blom), and 2 on Tilghman Island (Reese), all on Nov. 12; 3 at Conowingo on Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom); and 4 at DC on Nov. 26 (Elitzak). Over 300 **Great Black-backed Gulls** were congregated at Cedar Point, PRNAS on Aug. 14 (Rambo), 6 were at Conowingo on Sept. 3 and up to 500 were there by Nov. 19 (Scarpulla, Blom).

*Terns, Skimmer.* The solo **Caspian Tern** flying over Cherry Creek headed toward Deep Creek Lake on Aug. 12 (Pope) was an unusual sighting for that location. Other Caspians were 1 at Scotchman's Creek, Cecil County on Aug. 1 (Griffith, Holmes), 1 at Lake Needwood, Montgomery County on Aug. 13 (Bob Augustine), 18 at Triadelphia on Aug. 26 (Chestem), 55 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 15 at Loch Raven on Sept. 12 (Simon), 20 at the hydrilla in DC on Sept. 17 (Czaplak, Todd), 22 at Conowingo on Sept. 23 (Scarpulla), 1 at Blackwater on Oct. 28 (Czaplak, Todd), and 2 at Flag Ponds on Oct. 30 (Ripley). Harry Armistead checked off 8 **Royal Terns** at Choptank and Hog Island, Caroline County on Aug. 11, another was at Tanyard on Sept. 1 (Engle), and late reports were of 3 at Morgantown on Oct. 28 (Jett), 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 29 (Reese), and 1 at Ridge on Nov. 13 (Craig). Five **Sandwich Terns** were spotted at Point Lookout on Aug. 22 (Craig, Cribb), and 1 was there on Sept. 6 (Charles Studeholme), and the 4th Street flats in Ocean City hosted 2 on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd). Among the **Common Terns** this fall were 1 at Tydings Island on Aug. 25 (Webb), 16 at Bay Hundred, Talbot County on Sept. 17 (Reese), and 6 the same day at North Branch (Twigg). The **Arctic Tern**

was not to be left out, with one reported at Ocean City on Aug. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Some of the highs for **Forster's Terns** were 150 at Chestertown on Sept. 11 (Gruber), 584 at Conowingo on Sept. 23 (Scarpulla), 238 at Ridge on Oct. 13 (Craig), 131 at Chesapeake Beach on Oct. 21 (Stasz), and 175 at Blackwater on Nov. 12 (G. & H. Armistead). Later Forster's were present on Nov. 25 with 4 at Eastern Neck (Iliff, Stasz), 4 near Rock Point (Jett), and up to 5 at Tanyard (Engle); 12 were located at Point Lookout on Nov. 26 (Craig). A **Least Tern** was discovered at Stevensville on Aug. 26 (Matt O'Donnell), and 2 **Bridled Terns** were found about 40 miles east of Ocean City on Sept. 10 (Patteson+). Three **Black Terns** were discovered at PRNAS on Aug. 10 (Rambo, Lister), and 1 was at Tydings Island on Aug. 25 (Webb), where a **Black Skimmer**, for the first Harford County record, stopped by on Oct. 1 (Wortman, Webb).

*Doves, Cuckoos, Owls.* The hawkwatch staff at Turkey Point noted 176 **Rock Doves** on Sept. 2 and 462 of these birds were estimated at Conowingo on Nov. 25 (Scarpulla). A **Ringed Turtle-Dove**, no doubt an escape, was observed at a feeder in Montgomery Village on Sept. 11 (Sarah Hains). Jo Solem found a very large congregation of **Mourning Doves** in Howard County with well over 800 on the power lines off Gorman Road on Aug. 9; 175 were found earlier on Aug. 5 in Cecilton (Griffith, Powers). A **Black-billed Cuckoo** was heard doing mostly a two-note call at Morgan Run on Aug. 13 (Ringler); another was noted on the late date of Oct. 12 at Town Hill (Paulus). **Yellow-billed Cuckoos** running a bit late were solo birds on Oct. 22 in Frederick County (S. & I. Cornelius), on Oct. 28 in Montgomery County (Saunders), and on Oct. 30 at Flag Ponds (Ripley). A **Long-eared Owl** was present at Turkey Point on Oct. 23 (Smoot Major) and Oct. 28 (Steve Huy). Two **Short-eared Owls** were at Taneytown on Nov. 26, the same site as last winter (Ringler). The Armisteads got their 255th species around their home at Bellevue, a **Northern Saw-whet Owl**, on Nov. 12. It was quite a season for Saw-whets with unprecedented numbers banded in Maryland: 334 at Turkey Point, and 332 at Assateague, where the previous high was 65. Although outside of Maryland, it is interesting to note that numbers were even higher at Kiptopeke, Virginia, a coastal concentration point, where 1020 Saw-whets were banded (David Brinker+).

*Nighthawks, Swifts.* The first migrant **Common Nighthawk** was at Ashton on Aug. 17 (Sussman), and at least 15 were counted at Bellevue on Aug. 18 (H. Armistead). About 100 went by DC on Sept. 3 (Jett), 123 were over Silver Spring on Sept. 4 (Donald Sweig), 70 were tallied at Hallmark Road in Columbia on Sept. 9 (Ward Ebert), 133 were noted at Northgate, Cecil County the same day (Griffith), and later nighthawks were 1 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 7 (Steve Huy+), and at Conowingo on Oct. 8 (Scarpulla). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was reported in Kent County on Sept. 10 (Parks), and single **Whip-poor-wills** were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 (Judy Bromley), and at Waldorf on Sept. 29 (Jett). Highs for Chimney Swifts were 500 at Roosevelt Island, DC on Sept. 23 (Birutis), over 300 at PRNAS on Sept. 25 (Rambo), and 500 at Seneca on Oct. 4 (Czaplak, Todd). Late **Chimney Swifts** were 7 at Rockburn Branch Park on Oct. 21 (Ralph Geuder, Solem), 1 at Town Hill on Oct. 21 (Paulus), and 5 at Turkey Point on Oct. 22 (Griffith).

*Hummingbirds, Woodpeckers.* A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was in Bowie on Oct. 17 (Ann Newman), and another was at Hollywood Beach on Oct. 18 (Hyland Price). An adult female and an immature male **Rufous Hummingbird** were in DC from Nov. 12 to Nov. 20 (John Hayes+), and an adult female was at North Beach from Nov. 17 to Dec. 1 (Stasz+). Ten **Red-headed Woodpeckers** were at Purse SP on Aug. 28 (Jett), a nice sighting of five adult and two immature

Red-heads was made at Bellevue on Sept. 17 (Armisteads), and 3 were at Town Hill on Sept. 20 (Paulus). Mariana Nuttle checked off a **Yellow-bellied Sapsucker** at Denton on Sept. 14, and other solo sapsuckers were noted Sept. 23 at Washington Monument SP (I. Cornelius), at Rock Creek Park (Plante), and at Salisbury (Brodericks). Eight were checked off at Turkey Point on Oct. 18 (Fisher). Seventy-five migrating **Northern Flickers** were tallied at Turkey Point on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes), and 25 were found at Kent Narrows on Oct. 22 (Reese).

*Flycatchers.* Six individual **Olive-sided Flycatcher** sightings were made this season: at Tilghman Island on Aug. 13 (Reese), at Cherry Creek on Aug 17 and Sept 3 (Skipper, Pope), in Kent County on Aug. 24 (Parks), at Greenfield Road on Aug. 26 (Hershberger), and at Town Hill on Sept. 5 (Paulus). The last **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were 2 at Point Lookout on Oct. 11 (Craig), and 1 at Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary on Oct. 13 (Hershberger). A **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** was banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 16, and 2 were located at Greenfield Road on Aug. 26 (Hershberger). Two Yellow-bellieds passed Point Lookout on Aug. 29 (Craig, Cribb), and later reports were of one each at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Blom, Scarpulla) and at Salisbury on Sept. 24 (Dyke). The last **Acadian Flycatcher** submittals were on Sept. 21 at Flag Ponds (Ripley), and at PWRC (banded by Dawson) and an **Alder Flycatcher** was heard calling at Cherry Creek on Aug 13 (Skipper, Pope), the same day Jan Reese tallied 15 unidentified Empidonax flycatchers at Tilghman Island. Single Alders were also reported at Pennyfield on Aug. 27 (Czaplak, Todd), and Kent County on Sept. 2 (Parks). Jim Stasz and Ian Cornelius found a later Alder at Limekiln Road on Sept. 16 and a **Willow Flycatcher** the same day at the Funkstown water treatment plant, both in Washington County. Patty Craig identified a **Least Flycatcher** at Dameron on Aug. 22, Dawson banded 15 at PWRC from Aug. 18 to Sept. 15, and single birds near Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 26 (Wilkinson) and at DC on Sept. 27 (Czaplak, Todd) were just a few days late. Lingering **Great Crested Flycatchers** were at Centreville on Sept. 18 (Reese), and Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 24 (Holmes, Rod Burley, Solem). A **Western Kingbird** was reported at Assateague on Sept. 28 (Dyke). **Eastern Kingbirds** included 18 at Bellevue on Aug. 19 (H. Armistead, Margie Baldwin), another 18 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese), 14 at Annapolis on Aug. 29 (Stasz), 14 more at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), and a real lingerer at Denton on Oct. 7 (Nuttle).

*Swallows, Corvids.* Ethel Engle counted 130 **Purple Martins** at Tanyard on Aug. 8; about 2500 martins were at Pocomoke City on Sept. 8 (Davidson, Wierenga). Highs for **Tree Swallows** included 2500 at Conowingo on Aug. 27 (Saunders), 475 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 430 at Bellevue on Sept. 16 (Armisteads), 200 at New Windsor on Sept. 24 (Ringler), 475 at Hooper Island on Oct. 8 (H. Armistead), 1500 at Turkey Point on Oct. 13 (Griffith), 150 at Liberty Lake on Oct. 15 (Ringler), 100 at Myrtle Grove WMA on and 500, still on Oct. 22, at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville (Poet). November Tree Swallows included 1 at DC on Nov. 4 (Elitzak), 500 at the Ocean City Airport on Nov. 23 (O'Brien), and 7 near Grasonville on Nov. 26 (Jim Tate). Thirty-seven **Bank Swallows** were at Lily Ponds on Aug. 26 (Hershberger), the high was 275 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), and a late Bank Swallow was at New Windsor on Sept. 24 (Ringler). Late **Cliff Swallows** were 1 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 16 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 the same day at Waterford Farm, Howard County (Wallace), and 2 at New Windsor on Sept. 24 (Ringler). The high for **Barn Swallows** was 550 at Blackwater on Aug. 31 (H. Armistead), 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 17 (Solem), and another at Point Lookout on the very late date of Nov. 12 (Craig). Jan Reese tallied over 1000 **Blue Jays** at Tilghman Island on Oct. 1. Other highs were 240 at Conowingo on Sept.



30 (Scarpulla, Blom), 490, including one albinistic bird, over Town Hill on Oct. 1 (Paulus), 550 at Taylors Island on Oct. 7 (Reese, Levin Willey), 358 at Washington Monument SP the same day (Fritz, Bob Lindsay), and over 800 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 8 where 2 late migrants were noted on Nov. 26 (Reese+). Bob Ringler observed about 600 **American Crows** coming to roost at Piney Run on Oct. 15, and Harry Armistead counted 235 **Fish Crows** at Bellevue on Aug. 30. Jim Paulus saw 8 **Common Ravens** together at Town Hill on Sept. 14.

*Chickadees, Nuthatches, Wrens.* A few migrant **Black-capped Chickadees** were identified this fall, all in northern counties, with 1 at Hagerstown on Oct. 19 (Elizabeth Wolfe), 2 at Rohrsersville on Oct. 25 (Ann Mitchell), 2 at Fair Hill on Nov. 18 (Paul Bystrak), and 2 at Glen Mary Heights, Cecil County on Nov. 23 (Griffith). Several **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were reported including 2 at Town Hill on Aug. 21 (Paulus), 1 at Purse SP on Aug. 27 (Jett, Stasz), 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 1 (Whitmyre, Griffith), and 30 at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Dyke). From 1 to 8 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** were reported throughout the period at Tilghman Island, Kent Narrows, Blackwater, and E.A. Vaughn WMA by various birders. **Winter Wrens** included 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 27 (Zeichner), and 8 at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Dyke). One to 2 **Sedge Wrens** hung around Irish Grove on Oct. 28 (Pitney, Kay Gibbons, Polly Batchelder) and Oct. 29 (Ringler), and another was noted at Truitt Landing on Nov. 25 (Czaplak, Todd). Sue Ricciardi found a **Marsh Wren** at King Farm, Rockville on Sept. 4, and other interesting reports were at the Oakland Mills garden plots in Columbia on Sept. 28 (Wilkinson), and at PWRC on Oct. 12 (Osenton, Gough).

*Kinglets, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes, Mimids.* About 50 **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were near Grasonville on Nov. 4 (Jett), and at Tilghman Island (Reese) and Bel Alton (Jett) on Nov. 5. Les Eastman reported an extremely early **Ruby-crowned Kinglet** at Havre de Grace on Aug. 27. Others were 1 at Browns Bridge on Aug. 31 (Zeichner), 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 9 (Griffith), 100 at Point Lookout on Oct. 25 (Craig), and 50 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** included 4 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 13, and 18 there on Sept. 10 (Reese), and a late 1 at Arnold on Nov. 24 (Davidson, Wierenga). Also at Tilghman Island were over 150 **Eastern Bluebirds** on Oct. 29 and Nov. 5 (Reese). The high for the **Veery** was 18 at Neavitt on Sept. 3 (Donald Meritt), and 2 were at Gambrell SP on Oct. 7 (I. Cornelius). A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** was observed at Rocks SP, Harford County on Oct. 7 (Ziolkowski), and a late **Gray-cheeked Thrush** was at Sugarloaf on Oct. 20 (Czaplak, Todd). Ian Cornelius counted 24 migrating **Swainson's Thrushes** at Gambrells SP on Oct. 7, and Dawson banded a late one at PWRC on Oct. 31. **Hermit Thrushes** included 2 at Libertytown on Sept. 24 (Hershberger), the first one banded at Irvine on Oct. 4, 29 at Point Lookout on Oct. 26 (Craig), 20 at Assateague on Nov. 5 (Dyke), and over 30 at Tilghman Island the same day (Reese). Fifty migrant **Wood Thrushes** were tallied near Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese), 1 was spotted at Point Lookout on Oct. 11 (Craig), and the last one banded at Irvine was on Oct. 19. Jan Reese observed an **American Robin** building a nest at St. Michaels on Aug. 3 and tallied 2000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5, and 2000 at Easton on Nov. 6. Two hundred were counted at Cherry Creek on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope), and Bob Ringler found about 300 Robins at Irish Grove on Oct. 29. Don Simonson counted an amazing 130 Gray Catbirds at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 17, over 25 **Northern Mockingbirds** were at Tilghman Island on Oct. 1 (Reese), and a **Brown Thrasher** was at Point Lookout on Nov. 27 (Craig).

*Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes.* A lone **American Pipit** visited Triadelphia on Sept. 11 (Chestem, Zeichner), 3 were at PRNAS on Sept. 26 (Rambo), and 200 were



near Lily Pons on Nov. 5 (Hershberger). Connie Skipper and Fran Pope reported over 150 **Cedar Waxwings** at Cherry Creek on Sept. 4, 100 were at Hancock on Oct. 7 (Linda Keller, Beth Zang), 250 were at Chestertown on Nov. 5 (Gruber), and 637 were at Turkey Point on Nov. 9 (Griffith). A **Northern Shrike** visited the Wildfowl Trust at Grasonville, Nov. 18-20 (Davis+), and another was reported at Lily Pons on Nov. 20 (Gail Mackiernan). Two **Loggerhead Shrikes** were reported in shrubs on a lawn in Bozman on Aug. 21 (Herndon Steilkie), and others were 1 at Ashton on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius), 1 at Friendship, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 21 (Stasz), and others again in the Lily Pons area.

*Starlings, Vireos.* A large roost of **European Starlings** estimated at 8000 birds was just outside Westminster in the Avondale Run area on Nov. 2 (Ringler). Earlier, Jan Reese estimated 2000 Starlings at Centreville on Sept. 13. Thirty **White-eyed Vireos** were at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 17 (Simonson) and a late White-eyed turned up at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 16 (Solem). The first **Solitary Vireos** were 1 at Turkey Point on Sept. 5 (Griffith) and 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 15 (Solem). Norm Saunders found one on Nov. 4 at Lake Frank, Montgomery County. The last Yellow-throated Vireos were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 23 (Plante), and at Bryans Road on Sept. 24 (Jett). **Warbling Vireos** ended with 2 at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), and single sightings at Wilde Lake on Sept. 19 (Newmans), Salisbury the same day (Brodericks), and Assateague on Sept. 28 (Dyke). Banded **Philadelphia Vireos** at Cherry Creek were 2 on Sept. 10 and 1 on Sept. 20. The first sighting at Cherry Creek was on Sept. 4 (Skipper, Pope), others were seen on Sept. 10 at Greenfield Road (Hershberger), at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 11 (Dobbins), and on Oct. 7 at Gambrill SP (I. Cornelius). Patty Craig submitted highs for the Red-eyed Vireo with 20 at Point Lookout and 30 at Dameron on Sept. 8. Marie Plante noted a late Red-eyed at Pennyfield on Oct. 17.

*Vermivora Warblers.* A **Brewster's Warbler** was found at Havre de Grace on Aug. 24 (Les Eastman), and 1 was banded at Harford Glen on Sept. 5 (Barbara Bilsborough). Others reported were at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 21 (Janni), and at Roosevelt Island, DC on Sept. 23 (Birutis). A **Lawrence's Warbler** was reported at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 2 (Janni). A **Blue-winged Warbler** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 2 and singles were banded there on Sept. 4 and Sept. 11. They were earlier in the east with the first report on Aug. 19 near Pocomoke City (Davis). The last Blue-winged was at Noland's Ferry on Sept. 30 (Churchill). Single sightings of the **Golden-winged Warbler** were made at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 27 (Wilkinson), at Skeleton Creek Road, Caroline County on Aug. 29 (Iliff), at Eden Brook on Sept. 6 (Solem), at Daniels on Sept. 10 (Harveys, Stirrat), and at PWRC on Sept. 20 (banded by Dawson). Seven were banded for the season at Cherry Creek between Aug. 16 and Sept. 1. **Tennessee Warblers** began with 1 at Greenfield Road on Aug. 26, and late birds were at Avondale, Carroll County (Ringler) and PWRC (Dawson) on Oct. 23. Single **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Pennyfield on Oct. 7 (Linda Friedland), at Assateague on Oct. 8 (Dyke), at Mt. Pleasant on Oct. 15 (Ott, Randy Crook), at Morgan Run on Oct. 21 (Ringler), and later at Lake Elkhorn on Nov. 25 (Claire Horvath), and Dameron on Nov. 27 (Craig). Five **Nashville Warblers** went through Turkey Point on Sept. 10 (Fisher, McCandless), and the last sightings were solo birds at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on Oct. 29 (Jett), and Chestertown on Nov. 11 (Gruber).

*Dendroica Warblers.* A tardy **Yellow Warbler** was found at Hagerstown on Sept. 30 (Elizabeth Wolfe), and the last **Chestnut-sided Warblers** were at Gambrill SP (I. Cornelius) and PWRC (Dawson) on Oct. 7. A late **Magnolia Warbler** was

found at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 23 (Bonham); 25 were tallied earlier at Point Lookout on Sept. 19 (Craig, Cribb). A **Cape May Warbler** was checked off at Purse SP on Sept. 4 (Jett, Ringler, Stasz), and the first early **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Reese), and at West Ocean City the same day (DuMont). **Black-throated Blues** ended with 1 at Chestertown (Gruber), and the last one banded at Irvine, both on Oct. 24. **Yellow-rumped Warblers** arrived just a tad early with 1 at Big Pool on Sept. 16 (Stasz, I. Cornelius). Highs were over 100 at PRNAS on Oct. 10 (Rambo), 200 at Turkey Point on Oct. 21 (Griffith, Holmes), 1000 at Assateague on Oct. 22 (Dyke), and 120 at Bellevue on Nov. 4 (H. & L. Armistead). The first **Black-throated Green Warbler** was at Point Lookout on Aug. 29 (Craig, Cribb), 15 were at Pennyfield on Sept. 24 (DuMont), 15 were at Dameron on Oct. 9 (Craig), and late birds were single sightings at Hunt Ridge, Howard County on Oct. 19 (Stirrat), and at Liberty Lake on Oct. 22 (Ringler). **Blackburnian Warblers** began with 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 20 (Jeff Effinger, Beth Olsen), and at Point Lookout on Aug. 22 (Craig), and ended with 1 at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 1 (I. Cornelius), and at Conowingo on Oct. 3 (Mudd). Individual **Yellow-throated Warblers** were at Lake Kittamaquundi on Sept. 16 (Zeichner), and at Susquehanna SP on Sept. 24 (Eastman). Bob Ringler saw his last **Pine Warbler** at Liberty Reservoir on Oct. 21. Dawson banded a late **Prairie Warbler** at PWRC on Sept. 28. Highs for **Palm Warblers** were 15 at Taylors Island on Oct. 7 (Reese, Levin Willey), at least 30 at Schooley Mill the same day (Magnusson), and 12 at Bel Alton on Nov. 5 (Jett). A yellow **Palm** was at Liberty on Nov. 5 (Ringler), and the latest report for Palms was 1 on Nov. 24 at Eastern Neck (DuMont). The only **Blackpoll Warbler** banded at Irvine was late on Oct. 19. **Blackpolls** began with 1 at Greenfield Road on Sept. 4 (Hershberger+). Nice-to-find **Cerulean Warblers** were in Howard County with 1 at Lake Elkhorn from Aug. 3 to Sept. 3 (Wilkinson), 1 at Gwynn Acres Path on Sept. 15 (Jo & Bob Solem), and 1 during the Fall Count on Sept. 16. Irvine banded their first ever **Cerulean** on Aug. 25.

*Other Warblers.* At least ten **Black-and-white Warblers** were at Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 30 (Jo & Bob Solem), and 20 went through Dameron on Sept. 3 (Craig). **American Redstarts** included 1 banded at PWRC on Aug. 3 (Dawson), 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 4 (Rambo), and 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 6 (Reese), and the highs were 20 at Dameron on Sept. 3 (Craig) and 25 around Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese). A late **Prothonotary Warbler** was discovered at Conowingo on Sept. 30 (Scarpulla, Blom). Single **Worm-eating Warblers** were still at Daniels on Sept. 16 (Stirrat), Greenfield Road on Sept. 20 (Hershberger), and Flag Ponds on Sept. 27 (Ripley). The last **Ovenbird** banded at Irvine was on Oct. 25; the first report was at Dameron on Aug. 7 (Craig). A **Northern Waterthrush** was at Chestertown on Aug. 1 (Gruber), 4 were at Conowingo on Sept. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), and single birds were at Chestertown on Oct. 24 (Gruber) and at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 1 (Czaplak, Todd). Several sightings of **Connecticut Warblers** were submitted this fall including four banded at Cherry Creek between Sept. 1 and Sept. 16, 27 banded at PWRC, Sept. 2 to Oct. 1, 2 reported at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 1 (Janni), 1 at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Sept. 17 and Oct. 1 (Dyke), 1 at Rockburn Branch on Sept. 16 (Ott), 2 at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Meadowside Nature Center in Montgomery County on Sept. 20 (Bonham), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 7 (Jett), and another visiting the Liberty watershed on Oct. 8 (Ringler). **Mourning Warblers** were at PWRC as early as Aug. 10 (Dawson), at PRNAS on Aug. 25 (Cheeseman, Rambo), at Chestertown on Sept. 11 (Gruber), at Seneca on Sept. 13 and at Little Falls on Sept. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), at Fore Bay Pond near Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 16 (Wilkinson), and at Seneca on Sept. 25 (DuMont). Jan Reese counted over 40 **Common Yellowthroats** near Centreville on Sept. 12, 60

were at Hughes Hollow on Sept. 17 (Simonson), and the last was at Triadelphia on Nov. 16 (Farrell, Solem). A **Hooded Warbler** was banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 20. Others of note were late birds at Liberty watershed on Sept. 24 (Ringler), at the Columbia Road Golf Course on Sept. 25 (Zeichner), at Flag Ponds on Sept. 27 (Ripley), and at Hagerstown on Sept. 30 (Elizabeth Wolfe). The first **Wilson's Warbler** was banded at PWRC on Aug. 25 (Dawson), 1 was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 27 (Reese), 1 was banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 30, and a late male was at Conowingo on Oct. 29 (Scarpulla). An early **Canada Warbler** was at Lentz Road, Caroline County on Aug. 8 (Iliff), and the last was banded at PWRC on Oct. 8 (Dawson).

*Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches, Sparrows.* Two **Summer Tanagers** were on the Fall Count in Howard County on Sept. 16 (Maud Banks, Eva Sunell), and the last sightings were singles at Flag Ponds on Sept. 21 (Ripley), and at Hollywood on Sept. 25 (Rambo). **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** included an immature male at Harford Glen on Aug. 26 (Webb), 9 banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 1, over 25 just north of Centreville on Sept. 12 (Reese), 10 at Roosevelt Island, DC on Sept. 23 (Birutis), 1 at Hancock on Oct. 7 (Keller, Zang), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 10 (Jett), and a female during Nov. 10-25 at Wilde Lake (Wilkinson). A male **Blue Grosbeak** was at Greenfield Road on Oct. 4 (Lois Kauffman) and a female was at UMCf on Oct. 21 (McClures). A lingering **Indigo Bunting** was at Font Hill Park in Howard County on Oct. 21 (Kerwin). **Dickcissels** were 5 at Assateague on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd), with 1 seen there from Sept. 11 through Oct. 8 (Dyke+), and a female at the Oakland Mills garden plots in Columbia on Oct. 12 (Wilkinson). **American Tree Sparrows** began Nov. 18 with 1 at Chestertown (Gruber), and 6 at Antietam and 20 at Spickler Road, Washington County (Hershberger). **Chipping Sparrows** included 40 at Blackwater on Nov. 5 (H. L. Armistead), and late ones at Bethesda (Michael Bowen) and Piney Run on Nov. 26 (Ringler), and in Thurmont on Nov. 29 (Phylis Kind). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** turned up at a feeder near Reisterstown on Nov. 8 (Jim Peters), and 1 was noted at Assateague from Sept. 28 (Dyke) through Oct. 28 (Czaplak, Todd). The high for **Field Sparrows** was 19 at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary on Oct. 9 (Hershberger). Solo **Vesper Sparrows** were at Gateway Business Park, Howard County, on Oct. 10 (Solem, Zeichner, Holmes), at Audrey Carroll on Oct. 21 (Hershberger), and at Tilghman Island on Nov. 12 (Reese). Two Vespers were located at Monocacy Bottom Road, Frederick County on Oct. 28 (Hershberger). A **Savannah Sparrow** was at Dayton on Aug. 1 (Wallace); highs were 30 at Newtown Neck, St. Mary's County on Oct. 3 (Craig), 100 at Scotland on Oct. 7 (Burr, Craig), 25 at Gateway Business Park, Howard County on Oct. 9-10 (Solem+), and 50 at Point Lookout on Oct. 25 (Craig). Two of the increasingly hard-to-find **Grasshopper Sparrows** were discovered at Gateway Park in Howard County on Oct. 12 (Solem, Wilkinson), as was a **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow** on Oct. 9 (Wilkinson, Solem). The last Grasshopper Sparrow banded at Irvine was on Oct. 3. Ringler found 8 **Fox Sparrows** at Hashawha in Carroll County on Nov. 12, 15 were in Harford County at Broad Creek on Nov. 18 (Webb), and 30 at Fair Hill the same day (Powers). The high for **Song Sparrows** was 75 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). **Lincoln's Sparrows** included 4 at Schooley Mill Park on Oct. 7 (Magnusson), 3 at Susquehanna SP on Oct. 9 (Webb), 22 banded for the season at Cherry Creek from Sept. 10 through Oct. 11 with the last one seen there on Oct. 18 (Skipper, Pope), the last one banded at Irvine on Oct. 25, and late birds at PWRC on Nov. 6 (Dawson) and at Plum Tree Path in Howard County on Nov. 10 (Ott). An early **Swamp Sparrow** was at Chestertown on Sept. 20 (Gruber), and at Gwynn Acres Path, Howard County on Sept. 23 (Ringler); 272 were banded at Cherry Creek from Aug. 12 through Oct. 18. Highs were 62 at Lily Ponds on Oct. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), and 27 at Chestertown on Oct. 22 (Gruber). **White-**

**throated Sparrows** began with 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 16 (Newmans), 1 at Joppatowne on Sept. 19 (Ziolkowski), and the first ones banded at Cherry Creek and PWRC on Sept. 20. Over 500 were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). **White-crowned Sparrows** started with 1 at Rock Creek Park (Davis) and 1 at Chestertown (Gruber) on Sept. 30, 1 at Rockburn Park on Oct. 1 (Davis), and an immature at Centennial Park on Oct. 3 (Farrell).

*Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* A **Dark-eyed Junco** was reported early at Queenstown on Sept. 24 (Poet), another the same day at Gambrell SP (Hershberger), and at PRNAS on Sept. 25 (Rambo). Over 1000 were at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese), and 100 were at Pylesville on Nov. 11 (Jean Fry). **Lapland Longspurs** were 10 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 23 (Ralph Whaley), 2 near Lily Pons on Nov. 26 (Gail Mackiernan), and 10 at Point Lookout the same day (Lister). **Snow Buntings** included 1 in Dorchester County on Nov. 7 (Churchill), 13 flying over Town Hill on Nov. 11 (Paulus), 1 at Point Lookout on Nov. 15 (Craig, Bishop), 16 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), 25 there on Nov. 23 (Ralph Whaley), 4 near Lily Pons on Nov. 26 (Hershberger), and 50 at Point Lookout on Nov. 26 (Lister).

*Icterines.* Good counts for **Bobolinks** were over 250 at Barber and Schoolhouse Roads, Talbot County on Aug. 22 (Churchill), 150 at Bridge Creek Marsh, Wicomico County on Aug. 23 (Reese), over 200 at Tanyard on Aug. 27 (Engle), 120 at Cecilton on Sept. 2 (Fogleman), and 175 at the King Farm, Rockville on Sept. 4 (Ricciardi). A very late Bobolink was at UMCF on Oct. 22 (Solem+). Large concentrations of **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 2000 at Olney on Aug. 23 (Sussman), 1100 at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), 1500 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 5 (Reese). Forty **Eastern Meadowlarks** were listed at Blackwater on Oct. 22 (H. Armistead, Carltons), and an adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported at Lily Pons on Nov. 19 (Lori Kay Brown). **Rusty Blackbirds** made an appearance this season including 4 at Cherry Creek on Sept. 30, 30 there on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope), 1 at Collington on Oct. 1 (Edward Behr), 30 at Violettes Lock on Oct. 17 (Plante), 25 at Loch Raven on Nov. 3 (Wheeler), and 20 at Monocacy Bottom Road, Frederick County on Nov. 16 (Hershberger). Twenty-five thousand Common Grackles were estimated at Centreville on Sept. 13 (Reese); about 500 were at Cherry Creek on Oct. 7 (Skipper, Pope). Harry and Liz Armistead recorded still another high at Bellevue this season: 580 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** on Nov. 4. A lingering Orchard Oriole was at Waterford Farm off Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on Sept. 16 (Wallace), and **Baltimore Orioles** included 1 at Bellevue on Aug. 12 (H. Armistead), 5 banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 26, 30 at Assateague on Sept. 3 (Czaplak, Todd), an immature female at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 29 (Wilkinson), and 1 at Chestertown on Nov. 23 (Peggy Lou Young).

*Cardueline Finches.* A **Red Crossbill** was reported at Mt. Nebo WMA, Garrett County on Aug. 11 (Czaplak, Todd). **Pine Siskins** included 10 at Bel Air on Oct. 29 (Macrina Seitz), 23 at Bray Hill in Garrett County on Oct. 30 (Skipper), and 24 in Ellicott City on Nov. 3 (Ott). Jan Reese and Levin Willey tallied 110 **American Goldfinches** at Taylors Island on Oct. 7. Others were 60 at Browns Bridge on Sept. 10 (Saunders), 50 at Conowingo on Sept. 30 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 50 at Point Lookout on Nov. 13 (Craig). Nice sightings of **Evening Grosbeaks** were 15 at Cecilton on Sept. 27 (Beverly Pierce), 83 at Sugarloaf on Oct. 10 (Czaplak, Todd), 195 at Town Hill on Nov. 3 (Paulus), 24 at Mt. Albert in Howard County on Nov. 5 (McClures), 30 at Rock Creek Park on Nov. 10 (Janni), 50 at Blackwater Refuge on Nov. 11 (Saunders), and 37 at Bray Hill, Garrett County on Nov. 27 (Skipper).



## MOS SANCTUARIES WHERE WE'VE BEEN & WHERE WE ARE

DOROTHY M. MUMFORD

Currently MOS has nine sanctuaries that protect a total of 2,105 acres. They are located throughout the state from Garrett County in Western Maryland to Somerset County on the lower Eastern Shore. They range in size from 8 acres to 1,570 acres. They protect the flora and fauna of woodlands, fields, swamps and marshes. They provide places where MOS members can go to view nature and do research studies. They are ours and they are lovely places.

Obtaining these sanctuaries was not easy. It took the efforts of many dedicated people to bring them into being. It all started on January 13, 1956, when MOS received the generous gift of \$500 from Mr. E. John Besson, in memory of his twin sister who had passed away the previous June. Mr. Besson and his sister Adele owned a home in Chalk Point, *The Purple Martin*, and had for many years hosted an annual picnic for MOS members. Most certainly there had been talk at these picnics about the possibility of MOS having a sanctuary.

It was Mr. Besson's wish that the \$500 be invested as the start of a Sanctuary Fund with the hope that others would donate to this fund and that eventually the fund would be large enough to create income for maintaining sanctuaries. At that time MOS did not have any sanctuaries to maintain, so this gift made people to start thinking seriously about having sanctuaries. As evidence of this seriousness the By-Laws were updated to provide for a Sanctuary Committee to be made up of five people elected annually from the Board of Trustees. [Over the years the makeup of this committee evolved to fit the current needs. In 1961, the By-Laws were updated to increase the size of the Sanctuary Committee to seven members with the chairman to be elected by the Board of Trustees. In 1968 the number was increased to ten members. In 1970 it was decided to have two members from each chapter that maintained a sanctuary in addition to a Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary. In 1976 two members from the Board were added. About 1980 MOS did a major revision of their By-Laws. Since that time the Sanctuary Committee has been made up a Chairman and Vice-Chairman appointed by the President and one representative from each MOS chapter.]

Interest continued to build as evidenced by a two part article that appeared in 1958 in *Maryland Birdlife* (Vol. 14, pp. 66-67, 101-102) by Sterling W. Edwards called "Sanctuaries are Living Things." This article covered the topics of why we need sanctuaries, what to do on a sanctuary, and how to acquire a sanctuary. At the annual business meeting that year it was voted to increase emphasis on the acquisition of bird sanctuaries in Maryland and each chapter was charged to look for suitable properties in its area. The search began and resulted in four sanctuaries being established during the 60's—one by lease and three by purchase.

The Harford Chapter was the first to find a site—Rock Run Wildlife Sanctuary. Opened in August 1960, this first sanctuary was a 57-acre parcel with an old four-story stone house in Harford County near the Susquehanna River. It was leased from Mr. J. Gilman Paul for \$10 a month. It was embraced by enthusiastic MOS members. In the first year over 1000 visits were listed in the log book. Most



of these visitors came to help with the many, many tasks that needed to be done. The house needed to be patched, repaired, painted, cleaned and furnished. Trails were laid out, feeders erected, signs posted and, most essentially, a privy was built. Donations received included building materials, paint, tools, furniture, dishes, curtains, rugs, and a wood burning stove for heating the two main floors. Mrs. Basil Gregory, who lived about a mile away oversaw much of these activities. Gladys Cole started banding and the Robbins family laid out a 25-acre census tract. Overgrown vegetation around the house was cleared and the foundation of an old barn was discovered, on which a shelter was built in 1962.

Meanwhile members of the Allegany chapter located a piece of property in Garrett County. The Bernard A. Minick farm with 52.3 acres and a two-story wood frame house had been vacant for four years. The property was a mixture of some woods, orchards and open fields. Two streams ran through the property: Hefner Run and Carey Run. On November 24, 1962 a special statewide meeting was held at Cylburn Mansion where 108 members voted unanimously to purchase this farm for \$4,000. The deed was transferred on December 1, 1992 and Carey Run Sanctuary became our second sanctuary and the first by purchase. Mrs. C. Gordon (Billie) Taylor headed up the activities at Carey Run. In addition to the many MOS members who came to help with the refurbishing of the house and yard, there were groups from elementary schools and the Boy Scouts helped plant 1500 evergreen trees. Other groups came for bird study and to enjoy the many wildflowers. Over 1,000 visitors came in the first year (and the first 3 months were snowed in!).

The third sanctuary to be established was found by the Talbot Chapter in 1964. They had located 107.6 acres of rolling woodland on the south side of Rt. 662 about 1 mile south of Wye Mills. MOS member Robert Sharp II, an Easton realtor, was instrumental in coming to an agreement with the owner. The purchase price was \$8,100, most of which was raised by the Talbot Chapter. The following year Mrs. R. R. Spring donated 31 acres that were located on the north side of Rt. 662 and MOS purchased another 17 acres bringing the total acreage to 154. The creek that runs through the property is called Mill Creek and the sanctuary was named after it. The foundations of the old mill can still be found on the north side of the road. In 1966-67 the Talbot Chapter built a shelter on the property south of the road and established trails throughout.

The biggest and most ambitious MOS project was the purchase of 1,410 acres of mostly tidal marshland with some woodland and cultivated fields in Somerset County in September 1968. The \$80,000 purchase price was raised by donations from individuals and chapters. A complex of buildings including an old two-story furnished farm house, a barn, several sheds and shelters was accessed from Rumbly Point Road. The new sanctuary was called Irish Grove after a 300-year-old land grant that was made on part of the property. MOS members flocked to see the property and help with the many tasks to be done, mostly cleaning, repairs, painting and trail building. Gladys Cole set up her Operation Recovery banding station in the old garage. Gladys was devoted to Irish Grove and her banding project continued every fall at Irish Grove through the 70's and into the early 80's. Over the years hundreds of people assisted her in this project. The Wicomico Chapter carried on the huge task of helping with the banding, hosting groups and the forever ongoing maintenance.

In the 70's, five sanctuaries were acquired through donations of land. The first of these was Adventure which was bequeathed in a three-way trust to MOS,

Hood College and the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (Montgomery County). In 1972 a 60 acre parcel in Caroline County was purchased with the money bequeathed by Mrs. Myrtle Simon Pelot. In 1975 an eight acre marsh on a tributary of the Severn River in Anne Arundel County was donated by Col. William G. Bodenstein. In 1976 Dr. Caroline tum Suden left her residence on one and a half acres in Harford County. In 1978 The Nature Conservancy transferred to MOS fourteen acres in Frederick County which had been left to them by the widow of Seymour B. Cooper.

MOS did make two purchases with funds raised by the membership in 1972. Both of these purchases were additions to existing sanctuaries. Twelve acres were added to Irish Grove and 110 acres were added to Carey Run. This latter purchase was for \$40,000.

After a ten year gap, three more parcels of land were donated. In 1988 The Nature Conservancy transferred to MOS 85.8 acres of woodlands in Garrett County which they had received from Robert L. Wilson. In 1990 a 50 acre woodland in Talbot County was donated by 15 local land owners. In 1993 the Eastern Shore Land Trust transferred to MOS 148 acres adjacent to Irish Grove. This property was the gift of Mrs. Virginia Simmons.

So, this is how the sanctuary system grew. Eleven sanctuaries were established, nine of which are still in existence. The road was not easy with many many hours spent by MOS members negotiating deals, raising funds, trail building, banding, erecting bird houses and feeders, painting and repairing sanctuary houses, building shelters and observation decks, and the ever ongoing task of maintaining them. Along with the hard work was the pride of ownership, the satisfaction of a job well done and lots of birding and socializing with MOS members from across the state.

Two of our sanctuaries were closed and, unfortunately, both were in Harford County. The first to go was our first sanctuary, Rock Run. In 1973, after thirteen years of successful programs and projects, the property changed hands and became part of Susquehanna State Park. MOS was allowed to continue renting the house and one acre; however, three years later a fire made the house unusable. Amazingly, during the same week of the fire, MOS received the bequest of a small house on one and a half acres in Harford County from Dr. Caroline tum Suden. The house was located at the end of a dead-end street and was adjacent to Harford Glen, a 245 acre outdoor education center owned by the Harford County Board of Education. The lease at Rock Run was terminated and Harford Chapter moved their operation to tum Suden Sanctuary establishing a good working relationship with the Harford Glen facility. There were problems at tum Suden with security. The house was broken into and many of the bird mounts were stolen. In 1983, the MOS Board of Directors decided to use tum Suden to house the Atlas coordinator and his family. The house was occupied by the coordinator until 1994 at which time the Harford Chapter recommended that the property be turned over Harford Glen.

It is highly unlikely that MOS will purchase any more land for sanctuaries. During the 70's and 80's the price of real estate skyrocketed, making land purchases less possible with MOS's limited financial resources. Since 1980, two efforts were made to buy land for a new sanctuary. In 1984-85, Ben Poscover, chairman of the sanctuary committee, spent an enormous amount of time and effort

negotiating for a parcel of land in Allegany County known as Pinto Swamp without success. In 1990, John Wanuga of Talbot County left a bequest that with interest was valued at \$115,000 by 1995. Mr. Wanuga desired that the money be used to buy a sanctuary on the Eastern Shore. The Talbot Chapter went on a land search, but found that the bequest fell far short of what would be needed to buy a sanctuary. After five years it was decided to give the money to the Wildfowl Trust of North America to help purchase a parcel of land adjacent to their Horsehead Sanctuary in Queen Anne's County.

What of Mr. Besson's dream for the Sanctuary Fund that he started? During the 60's many donations were added to this fund by individuals and MOS chapters. This money was used for helping to purchase land as well as maintenance. As the fever to buy sanctuaries waned so did the donations. The Fund did grow to a fairly good size, but the present income from it is insufficient to meet the requirements of maintaining our sanctuaries. Each year the costs for the minimum maintenance that we do is more than the income and donations made for that given year. As a result the fund is now getting a little smaller each year. The cost of this maintenance will be getting bigger as time progresses due primarily to inflation. Also, in eight years time the tax deferment on Irish Grove will expire and we will again have to pay taxes on the whole 1,570 acres. This is a problem that MOS will need to address in the very near future.

Following is a review of our nine sanctuaries, in order of acquisition, with a brief description. More complete descriptions with maps, etc. of our sanctuaries can be found in the up-coming revision of the *Guide to the Sanctuaries of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.* scheduled to be available in 1997.

### CAREY RUN

Purchased in December 1962 for \$4,000, the property consisted of 52.3 acres with a two-story wood frame house and some outbuildings. The Allegany Chapter conducted workdays, programs for groups and a Junior Nature Camp. An additional 110 acres was purchased in 1972 (mortgage liquidated in 1977). Indoor plumbing was installed at the house with an addition built containing two powder rooms and a shower room in 1974. A "Spring Cleaning" workday is held every year on the last Saturday in April (Easter permitting). Overnight stays at the house may be made by prior reservation from May through the second weekend in October.

### MILL CREEK

Talbot County is the location of this 155 acres of woodlands and bottomland purchased in 1964. A shelter was built in 1966-67 which was accessed by an old logging road. However, vandalism became a problem in the late 70's and early 80's when the shelter became the site of beer parties. In 1987 the logging road was closed off and a new entrance was created with a parking lot which has greatly reduced the vandalism. Talbot Chapter maintains the parking lot, shelter and trails.

### IRISH GROVE

There are not enough words to describe this marvelous sanctuary of some 1,570 acres of tidal marsh and woodlands in Somerset County. The headquarters off Rumbly Point Road consists of a two-story frame house, a screened dining shelter, tool shed, banding shed and a two room privy. Originally there was also a barn

(with Barn Owl nest) and several storage sheds, but these were destroyed by a tornado-like storm in May 1990. The Sanctuary house is equipped with a working kitchen and propane gas heaters. The plumbing is winterized (can not be used) from early November through March. Overnight stays in the sanctuary house may be made by prior reservation.

Established in 1968, Irish Grove has been the site of many programs and projects such as Gladys Cole's banding station in the 70's and early 80's. The Wicomico Chapter has been very active in helping with the activities here conducting workdays, hosting groups, and helping with the banding. However, there are limitations as to just how much a small local chapter can do in maintaining a sanctuary as large as Irish Grove. In 1983 the concept of conducting large workdays where MOS members from all over the state could come and help was established. There are now two annual workdays, one on the first Saturday of April (Easter permitting) and one on the last Saturday in October.

### **ADVENTURE**

This sanctuary is the result of a gift from Alice Hostettler who left her house and 14 acres in a three-way trusteeship with MOS, Hood College and the Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission (Montgomery County). The Commission administers and maintains the facility and owns some 88 adjacent acres. Margaret Donnalld from Montgomery Chapter, with the help of a number of volunteers, ran an active banding station here every spring and fall from 1972 to 1995. The data base of this research is truly astounding.

### **MYRTLE SIMON PELOT**

Mrs. Charles Pelot of Caroline County bequeathed her house to MOS in 1971. The proceeds of the sale of this house, some \$34,000, were used in 1974 to purchase 60 acres of deciduous swamp forest along Gravelly Branch. The Caroline Chapter maintains the trails in this sanctuary.

### **MANDARES CREEK**

Donated by Col. & Mrs. William G. Bodenstein in 1975, this 8 acres of waterfront includes mostly fresh water marsh, with a lush stand of cattails, and some deciduous swamp. Located in Anne Arundel County, on the former Mandares Creek (now called Maynadier Creek), a tributary of the Severn River, this sanctuary has no access or trails.

### **SEYMOUR B. COOPER**

This 14.3 acres of woodlands was transferred to MOS by The Nature Conservancy, who had received the property from the estate of Seymour B. Cooper. It is located on the side of Piney Mountain in Frederick County. The Frederick Chapter maintains the trails.

### **CAROLINE W. WILSON**

Located in the Altamont section of Garrett County this sanctuary was donated to MOS by The Nature Conservancy in December 1988. It was the gift of Robert L. Wilson in memory of his aunt, Caroline W. Wilson. This site is an 85.8 acre woodland bisected by several streams. It is land-locked and the only access can be made from the railroad tracks that run along one side of it. There is a trail, the remnants of an old road, that runs the length of the property.

### MARENGO WOODS

This 50 acre woodlot is located on the Miles River Neck in Talbot County. It was donated to MOS by 15 local land owners who wanted the property to be saved from development. For much of the year, there is standing water throughout the woods. There are no trails.

### REFERENCES

For additional information on the acquisition and activities on the various MOS sanctuaries, consult the following references from *Maryland Birdlife*:

Rock Run: 16:45, 61, 87-88; 17:63, 105-106; 18:96-97; 19:1, 10-13, 87-90; 20:3-9; 21:110; 22:102, 113; 25:10; 30:47-48, 62; 32:10.

Carey Run: 18:85-90, 113-114; 20:10-11, 17-19; 21:90-91; 27:10, 157-169; 29:80-81, 135, 167; 31:89, 109.

Mill Creek: 20:10-14, 29; 21:55; 27:1, 9; 28:13; 29:143-149.

Irish Grove: 24:80-83, 110-113; 25:123-125; 27:10, 17-27; 28:13, 142; 30:46; 31:124-125; 44:114; 45:121-122; 46:114-115; 48:109-110; 51:35.

Adventure: 33:87; 34:S10; 35:85, 88-97; 36:1-13; 37:129-132; 46:79-82.

Myrtle Simon Pelot: 28:13; 30:62.

Caroline tum Suden: 32:10-11; 35:49; 37:73; 51:35.

Mandares Creek: 33:80; 34:S10, S13; 35:45; 46:114.

Seymour B. Cooper: 34:S10, S15.

Caroline W. Wilson: 45:121; 46:113.

Marengo Woods: 46:114.

*1900 Generals Highway, Annapolis, Maryland 21401*



## RECORD GOLDEN EAGLE DAY AT TOWN HILL

JIM PAULUS

At 3 a.m. on March 6, 1997, the predicted cold front started moving across Allegany County, generating northwesterly winds of 27 to 45 m.p.h. and dropping the temperature from 51°F. at midnight to 37° at 4 a.m. This front was supposed to clear out the foul weather that the area had experienced for the past five days, making hawk counting impossible because of the rain, snow, sleet, and heavy mountaintop fog.

I arrived at the Town Hill overlook at 8:30 a.m. in the midst of a snow squall and an extremely strong northwesterly wind. Looking westward, I could see some white clouds with patches of blue sky and patches of sun shining on Polish Mountain. By 8:45 a.m., I was getting some sunshine at the overlook so I positioned my car where I could best view the west side of the ridge, the side that migrating Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) would be using today to catch the updrafts.

I did not have to wait long. Golden Eagle #1 coasted by at 8:59 a.m., seemingly unaffected by the severely strong and gusting winds. #2 appeared at 9:07, #3 at 9:46, #4 at 9:49, #5 at 9:54, #6 at 10:05, #7 at 10:08, #8 at 10:52, #9 at 11:36, #10 at 11:55, #11 at 12:19, #13 at 2:42, and the last, #13 at 2:54 p.m.

Thirteen Golden Eagles!, the most I have ever seen in one day. My previous one-day record was on November 8, 1995, when I had totaled 11. All the Golden Eagles were adults and all were using the same flight pattern, crossing the hotel about 300 feet west of where I was parked and about 400 feet above the tree tops. All were coasting/gliding on the updrafts with wing tips pulled sharply back, not flapping and moving along very steadily.

Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) were limited that day to flying in the east valley, out of the wind. One Turkey Vulture tried to cross over the ridge to the west side and was hit with such a hard gust of wind that it was literally knocked out of control and blown back across the ridge, losing several feathers in the process.

In the eight years that I have been counting migrating hawks at the overlook, today had the strongest winds that I have ever encountered there.

When I quit watching at 4:30 p.m., the temperature was 41°F. with a partly cloudy sky and the wind northwest between 20 and 30 m.p.h. Other raptors seen that day were Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), an adult Northern Goshawk (*A. gentilis*), and Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*).

The next day, March 7, was clear, but no raptors were seen. On March 8, however, I had a very special moment. I photographed an adult Golden Eagle soaring over the hotel at 10:38 a.m.—the 400th Golden Eagle seen by me at the Town Hill overlook since I saw my first one there on October 16, 1990.

Peak time for the spring migration of Golden Eagles at the overlook is the first two weeks of March.

P. O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501

Received March 22, 1997

## WINTER SEASON, DECEMBER 1, 1995 - FEBRUARY 28, 1996

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH

The winter was cold and harsh, with several storms, particularly January 6-8, when a storm brought an accumulation of up to two feet of snow before ending. From Virginia to Massachusetts it was the snowiest winter of the century. Overall temperatures were below average, and precipitation was above average. Species such as Horned Larks and Lapland Longspurs were numerous, and it was a good winter for feeder birds. However, many landbirds, waders, and shorebirds were scarce, particularly from January on.

*Observers:* Henry Armistead, John Bjerke, Rick Blom, Larry Bonham, Michael Braun, Martha Chestem, John Churchill, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, Ralph Cullison, Phil Davis, Bill Dobbins, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Jean Fry, Marvin Hewitt, Mark Hoffman, Steve Huy, Marshall Iliff, George Jett, Doug Lister, Gail Mackiernan, Mariana Nuttle, Beth Olsen, Peter Osenton, Brian Patteson, Jim Paulus, Danny Poet, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Robert Ringle, Arlene Ripley, Will Russell, Gene Scarpulla, Bill Scudder, Steve Simon, Teresa Simons, Don Simonson, L. T. Short, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Hank Stanton, Jim Stasz, Amy Thornton, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

*Abbreviations:* CBC—Christmas Bird Count, DC—District of Columbia, NWR—National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS—Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), PWRC—Patuxent Wildlife Research Center (Prince George's County), SF—State Forest, SP—State Park, WMA—Wildlife Management Area, WS—Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Alpha Ridge Landfill (Howard), Assateague Island (Worcester), Back River Waste Water Treatment Plant (Baltimore), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Cornfield Harbor (St. Mary's), Eastern Neck NWR (Kent), Flag Ponds Park (Calvert), Gunpowder River (Harford), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Patuxent River Park (Prince George's), Piney Run Park (Carroll), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise), Truitts Landing (Worcester), Town Hill (Allegany).

*Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Pelicans.* There were 150 **Red-throated Loons** at St. Leonard's Creek, Calvert County on Dec. 29 (Watkins), and 400 at Pt. Lookout on Dec. 31 (Craig, Stasz). A lone Red-throated was found at PRNAS on Feb. 8 (Lister). **Common Loons** also visited Calvert County with 2 at Flag Ponds Park on Feb. 1 (Ripley). Others were 17 at Assateague on Feb. 2 (Churchill) and 5 at Point Lookout on Feb. 29 (Craig). **Pied-billed Grebes** included 40 at Loch Raven on Dec. 1 (Simon), and 29 at Piney Run on Dec. 25 and 3 near Cumberland on Jan. 28 (Ringle). **Red-necked Grebe** numbers were better than average with 1 at Hooper Island on Dec. 6 (Churchill), 2 at Back River on Jan. 11 (Iliff), 1 at Cove Point on Jan. 14 (Jett, Stasz), 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 25 (Lister), 2 near Ocean City on Jan. 28—Feb. 2 (Churchill, Paul DuMont), 1 at Ridge on Feb. 9-13 (Craig), 1 at

South Point, Worcester County on Feb. 18 (Czaplak, Hoffman), 2 at Ocean City on Feb. 19 and 28 (Hoffman, Churchill), and 1 at Sandy Point SP on Jan. 20 (Ricciardi+). **Northern Gannets** were spotted with 3 off Flag Ponds on Dec. 1 and 1 there on Dec. 23 (Ripley), 19 at St. Clements Island, St. Mary's County on Dec. 3 (Ann Hobbs), 300 at Point Lookout on Dec. 8 (Jim Day), 1 at PRNAS on Jan. 27 (Lister), 89 checked off during the Feb. 18 pelagic trip from Ocean City (Patteson+), and 8 on Feb. 29 at Pt. Lookout (Cribb). **Brown Pelicans** braving the elements were 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 10 (Churchill), and 1 at Point Lookout on Feb. 25 (Beverly & Warren Walker).

*Cormorants, Herons, Egrets.* Ocean City remains a good place to find winter **Great Cormorants** with 4 there on Dec. 3 (Braun), and 5 on Feb. 11 (Bjerke). Seven Great Cormorants were at Point Lookout on Jan. 23 and 5 were at Ridge on Feb. 14 (Craig). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 1 on Dec. 2 at Lapidum, Harford County (Ringler+), 4 at Ocean City on Dec. 3 (Braun), 2 at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 on the Patuxent River, Calvert County on Jan. 14 (Ringler, Ricciardi), 7 at Ocean Pines on Feb. 10 (Ringler+), 7 at Point Lookout on Jan. 23 (Craig), 1 at North Beach on Feb. 13 (Stasz), 3 at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Anne Bishop, Craig), and 1 at Conowingo on Dec. 8 (Webb). An **American Bittern** was discovered at Lily Ponds on Dec. 3 (Mackiernan, Elliot Kirschbaum), 1 was seen at Assateague on Jan. 14 and Feb. 6-7 (Churchill), and another was at George Island Landing on Feb. 19 (Hoffman). The 14 **Great Blue Herons** at Mattawoman Creek, Charles County on Jan. 21 (Jett) were quite a few for such a harsh January. A **Great Egret** was noted at Shorter's Wharf Road, Dorchester County on Dec. 30 (Brent Tarter, Jane Hehman, Alan Bromberg+).

*Swans, Geese.* **Tundra Swan** numbers were good including over 1800 tallied at Federalsburg on Feb. 26 (Short). An exotic **Black Swan** remained at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz). **Greater White-fronted Geese** were 1 at Bay Head Road, Anne Arundel on Dec. 25 (Bob Abrams) and 2 adults and an immature at Fruitland on Feb. 10 (Ringler). **Snow Geese** included 2 at Piney Run on Dec. 17-18 (Ringler, Larry Cox), 950 blue race at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), an incredible 10,000 Snow Geese at Ironshire on Feb. 10 (Ringler), and a single blue was at Centennial on Feb. 13 (Farrell) and Feb. 24 (Stanton+). **Ross' Geese** were sorted out with 2 at Blackwater on Dec. 6 (Churchill), 1, an immature blue race, at Boyce Mill Road, Caroline County on Dec. 17 (Stasz), 1 at Little Seneca Lake, a very unusual location, on Dec. 30 (Bjerke, Mark Garland), and 1 near St. Martin's, Worcester County on Dec. 30 (Hoffman, Thornton). An adult Ross' and a possible **Ross' X Blue** were reported at Route 314 and Kibler Road, Caroline County on Dec. 24 (Iliff). Three **Brant** were found at Turkey Point, Anne Arundel County on Jan. 1 (Davis). **Canada Geese** included 3030 at Triadelphia Reservoir on Dec. 16 (Wallace), and 5000 at Piney Run on Dec. 17 (Ringler). Single small race Canada Geese noted were at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 15 (Stasz), Cambridge on Dec. 30 (Alan Bromberg), and Stockyard Road, Wicomico County on Feb. 17 (Stasz).

*Puddle Ducks.* A male **Wood Duck** was at Lake Elkhorn throughout the period (Wilkinson+), 12 were near Ironshire on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton), a drake was at PWRC on Jan. 15 (Osenton), 60 were near Ironshire on Feb. 17 (Hoffman), a female was at Cumberland on Jan. 28 (Ringler), and 15 Wood Ducks were visiting Harford Glen on Feb. 27 (Kirkwood). Steve Simon tallied 40 **Green-winged Teal** inland at Loch Raven on Dec. 3, and 202 **American Black Ducks** were near Burkittsville on Dec. 31 (Cornelius). Highs for **Mallards** were 300 at Back River on Jan. 11 (Iliff), 750 at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), and 630 at West Ocean

City on Feb. 19 (Hoffman). Twelve **Northern Pintails** were found at Flag Ponds on Dec. 1 (Ripley), over 50 were at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 175 were tallied at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), and 90 were checked off near Girdletree on Feb. 19 (Hoffman). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were discovered at Grasonville on Nov. 24 (Iliff). **Northern Shovelers** included 22 at West Ocean City on Feb. 19 (Hoffman), and 12 at Scotland on Feb. 24 (Craig). **Gadwall** numbers were good with 25 at Piney Run on Dec. 3 (Ringler), over 50 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz), and 80 at Assateague on Feb. 1 (Churchill). Up to 150 **American Wigeon** were counted at Loch Raven on Dec. 1 (Mike Kerwin, Simon). An exotic **Mandarin Duck** was reported at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 1 (Stasz), and a male **Baikal Teal** was identified at Pasadena on Feb. 12 (Leanne Pemburn).

*Diving Ducks.* **Canvasbacks** made the best showing in decades with counts of 2000 at Cambridge on Dec. 17 and an astonishing 20,000 at Arundel-on-the-Bay on Jan. 1 (Davis), 5000 at North Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz), 5000 at Fairhaven on Jan. 14 (Davis), over 5000 at Choptank on Jan. 25 (Don Ford), and 2500 at St. Michaels on Feb. 29 (Reese). **Redhead** numbers were better than usual with 1 at Denton on Dec. 1 (Hewitt), 3 drakes on the Gunpowder River on Dec. 2 (Webb), 6 at Centennial on Dec. 15 (Farrell, Zeichner), 30 at Little Seneca Lake on Dec. 16 (Adam Dietz), 11 near Burkittsville Dec. 29—Jan. 9 (Wilbur Hershberger+), a nice count of 74 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon), 12 at Arundel-on-the-Bay on Jan. 1 (Davis), at least 15 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 5 at Hagerstown on Jan. 15 (Iliff, Stasz), 12 at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Bishop, Craig), 11 at PRNAS on Feb. 28 (Craig), and 38 at Millstone Landing Road, St. Mary's County on Feb. 28 (Stasz). Highs for **Ring-necked Ducks** were 120 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon), 300 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 24 (Jett, Stasz), and 145 at Beauvue on Feb. 25 (Stasz). Interesting **Greater Scaup** reports were of over 1000 at Arundel-on-the-Bay on Jan. 1 (Davis), 700 at Rock Point on Jan. 6 (Jett), 1 in the Potomac River at DC on Jan. 15 (Dobbins), a female at Centennial on Feb. 13 (Farrell), 2 at Triadelphia on Feb. 24-25 (Farrell, Solem), and 500 at Morningside on Feb. 26 (Jett). Bob Ringler notched a nice count of about 15,000 **Lesser Scaup** at the Gunpowder River on Dec. 2. **Common Eiders** were present with 7 at Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Reese), and 10 there on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton). **Harlequin Ducks** continue to be fairly reliable Ocean City inlet winter visitors with one to two drakes from Dec. 3 (Braun) to Feb. 19 (many observers). A first-year male Harlequin was at PRNAS from Feb. 28 into March (Lister). **Oldsquaws** included 50 at Seneca on Dec. 2 (Simonson), 1 at Loch Raven on Dec. 17 (Simon), 300 at Rock Point on Jan. 6 (Jett), 1500 at North Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz), and 2 at Bivalve on Feb. 19 (Stasz). **Black Scoters** were 150 at Point Lookout on Dec. 16 (Cribb) and 500 at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (Hoffman). A drake **Surf Scoter** was on the Gunpowder River on Dec. 2 (Webb), and others were 75 at Flag Ponds on Jan. 14 (Ripley), 93 at Cove Point on Jan. 14 (Jett, Stasz), and 300 at Ocean City on Feb. 18 (Hoffman). Jim Stasz counted 40 **White-winged Scoters** at North Beach on Jan. 12 and turned in good counts for **Common Goldeneyes**: over 2500 at Eastern Neck NWR on Jan. 6, 850 at North Beach on Jan. 12, and 73 at Cambridge on Feb. 11. **Buffleheads** included 150 at Rock Point on Jan. 6 (Jett), 350 at North Beach on Jan. 12 (Stasz), 500 at Flag Ponds on Jan. 14 (Ripley), and 400 at South Point, Worcester County on Feb. 18 (Hoffman). **Hooded Mergansers** were 175 at Piney Run on Dec. 17 (Ringler) and 74 at Loch Raven on Dec. 29 (Simon). Highs for **Common Mergansers** were 500 on Jan. 21 at Riverside (Jett), 25 at Denton on Feb. 9 (Hewitt), 1500 at Fredericktown on Feb. 10 (Stasz), and over 150 at Triadelphia on Feb. 24 (Farrell, Jett, Stasz). Seventy **Red-breasted Mergansers** were at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Rambo). Bob Ringler checked off 125 **Ruddy Ducks** at Piney Run on Dec. 3, and 800 were tallied at Leonardtown on Feb. 25 (Bishop, Craig).



*Diurnal Raptors.* Thirty **Black Vultures** were at Fredericktown on Feb. 10 (Stasz), and 95 **Turkey Vultures** were noted at Wilde Lake on Jan. 6 (Farrell, Solem). An **Osprey** was reported at Roosevelt Island, DC on Dec. 6 (Peter Kaestner), 1 was at Ruppert's Island, Montgomery County on Dec. 8 (David Winer), 1 was in Snow Hill on Dec. 17 (Tina and Curtis Dew), and another was reported in DC on Feb. 14 (Dobbins). Two **Bald Eagles** were inland at Piney Run on Dec. 17-18 (Ringler, Larry Cox). **Northern Harriers** included 5 at Scotland on Dec. 5 (Craig), 6 at Allens Fresh on Dec. 21 (Jett), and 40 in southern Dorchester County on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell). Interesting **Northern Goshawk** reports were received: 1 in Montgomery County on Dec. 17 (Mackiernan), an immature in east Columbia on Dec. 24 (Ecker), an immature in Harford County at Fountain Green on Jan. 9 (Jon Cupp, Jr.), 1 at Darnestown on Jan. 10 (John Rhines), 1 at Cockeysville on Jan. 14 (Kye Jenkins), an adult at Orleans Road, Allegany County on Jan. 15 (Paulus, Simons), an immature at Centennial from Jan. 26 through Feb. 13 (Farrell+), and 1 at Aberdeen on Feb. 18 (Randy Robertson). A western-type rufous morph **Red-tailed Hawk** was reported at Brighton Dam and Ten Oaks Road in Howard County on Dec. 25 (Farrell, T. Dennis Coskren), and a dark-morph was also reported near the Cecil-Kent County line on Feb. 18 (Ricciardi, Lynn Davidson, Hal Wierenga). **Rough-legged Hawks** included 1 near Frederick on Dec. 3 (David Abbott), 2 at Brighton Dam and Ten Oaks Roads in Howard County on Dec. 23 (Solem, Iliff+), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Jan. 8 (Wilkinson), 1 near Preston on Jan. 8 (Pat Groller), 1 near Quinn Road, Kent County on Jan. 13 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 near Lilypons on Jan. 14 (Simonson), 1 at Taneytown on Jan. 15 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 in Frederick County on Feb. 3 (Huy, Cornelius), 1 at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison), 1 at Dameron on Feb. 14 (Cribb), and 2 more in St. Mary's County on Feb. 25 (Stasz+). Interesting **Golden Eagles** were 1 near Chevy Chase on Dec. 12 (Ecker), an immature at Conowingo on Dec. 30 (Greg Futral) and Jan. 14 (Les Eastman), and an adult at North Branch on Jan. 28 (Paulus, Simons). Harry Armistead and Will Russell noted a Golden Eagle at Blackwater on Feb. 17 and another the same day at the Transquaking River Bridge, swooping at a Wild Turkey that had been sitting in a tree. **Merlin** reports included 1 near Lilypons on Dec. 3 (Mackiernan+), 1 at California on Dec. 9 (Craig), 1 at Bellevue on Dec. 17 (Armistead), 1 at Chevy Chase on Dec. 25 (Ken Harnet), 1 at West Ocean City on Jan. 1 (Reese), 2 at Assateague on Jan. 5 and 1 there on Feb. 14 (Churchill), 1 at St. Mary's City on Feb. 20 (Jane Kostenko, Tyler Bell), and 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Jett). **Peregrine Falcons** were 1 in St. Mary's County on Dec. 16 (Steve Sanford+), 1 at Conowingo on Dec. 24 (Scarpulla), 1 at Solomons Island on Dec. 26 (Iliff), 2 at Ocean City on Dec. 28 (Sheppard+), and 1 at Rockville on Jan. 30 (Ellen Scofield).

*Turkeys, Rails, Common Moorhen, Coots.* Twenty **Wild Turkeys** were located near Church Creek in Dorchester County on Jan. 20 (Peter Kaestner), 20 in Frederick County on Jan. 21 (Dave Smith), and 8 at Blackwater on Feb. 17 and 2 the same day at the Transquaking River Bridge (Armistead, Russell). Three **Clapper Rails** were noted at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 31 (Stasz, Jett). A **Common Moorhen** was near Ironshire on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton), and **American Coots** included 80 south of Burkittsville on Dec. 3 (Cornelius), 500 at Piney Run the same day (Ringler, Greg Kline), 1200 at Loch Raven on Dec. 17 (Simon), and 120 at Little Seneca Lake on Feb. 24 (Stasz, Jett).

*Killdeer, Oystercatchers, Sandpipers.* Fifty **Killdeer** were observed at Ridge on Dec. 2 (Craig), and 45 **American Oystercatchers** were listed at Ocean City on Feb. 17 (Hoffman). A **Greater Yellowlegs** was in DC on Feb. 14 (Dobbins), 15 were at Blackwater and 4 at Elliott Island on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell), 1 was at



George Island Landing on Feb. 19 (Hoffman), and 5 were at the Elliott marshes on Feb. 25 (Bjerke). A **Lesser Yellowlegs** was near Lilypons on Dec. 8 (Wilbur Hershberger), and 3 visited Assateague on Jan. 22 (Churchill). **Ruddy Turnstones** included 33 at Point Lookout on Dec. 22 (Cribb), and 184 totaled during the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 (Sheppard+). A **Red Knot** was noted in Ocean City through Feb. 28 (Churchill). Interesting **Sanderlings** were 4 at Benoni Point on Dec. 17 (Armistead, Spitzer), 11 at Cove Point on Jan. 14 (Jett, Stasz), 140 at PRNAS on Feb. 7 (Rambo+), and 34 at Point Lookout on Feb. 9 (Cribb). Eight **Dunlins** were discovered at Tilghman Island on Dec. 3 (Reese), and 1 was at PRNAS on Jan. 3 and Feb. 7 (Rambo, Lister, Craig). Four **Common Snipe** were observed at Wakefield, Carroll County on Feb. 4 (Ringler), and 5 at Rench Road, Washington County on Feb. 13 (Weesner). Seven **American Woodcock** were at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig), and 1 was observed displaying at the Elliott marshes on Feb. 25 (Bjerke).

*Gulls.* A **Laughing Gull** was sorted out at Conowingo on Dec. 8 (Webb); 3 were at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 15 (Stasz). A **Black-headed Gull** was reported at Ocean City on Jan. 13 (Richard Wilt). **Bonaparte's Gulls** seemed scarce with 40 at Blackwalnut Point, Talbot County on Dec. 11 (Churchill) and 12 at Scotland on Jan. 3 (Craig Boxwell, Cribb). Highs for **Ring-billed Gulls** were 20,000 at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Jim Potyraj), 975 at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), 4,000 in Frederick County on Jan. 27 (Doug & Nancy Parker), 5000 at Upper Marlboro on Feb. 6 (Stasz), and 2000 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig). **Herring Gulls** included 10,000 at Conowingo on Jan. 6 (Scarpulla, Blom), and 1200 at the Somerset County Landfill on Feb. 17 (Stasz). A **Thayer's Gull** was identified at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Jim Potyraj), with 2 there on Jan. 6 (Scarpulla, Blom). Another was reported at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison, Olsen). A handful of **Iceland Gulls** were found this winter: 1 at Ocean City on Dec. 28 (Robbins+), 3 at Conowingo on Dec. 29 (Scarpulla, Potyraj), 1 at Greenbelt Lake on Dec. 30 (Churchill), 7 at Conowingo on Jan. 6 (Scarpulla, Blom), 2 first-winter birds at Brown Station Landfill near Upper Marlboro on Feb. 10 (Ricciardi), 1 at Ocean City on Feb. 17 (Hoffman), and a first-winter bird at Jug Bay on Feb. 18 (Osenton). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included 1 at Piney Run on Dec. 3 (Ringler); 3 at Conowingo on Dec. 10 (Scarpulla), and 6 there on Jan. 6 (Blom); 1 at Greenbelt Lake on Dec. 15 (Churchill); 1 at McNair Golf Course, DC on Dec. 16 (Elitzak); 1 at the Gunpowder River delta on Jan. 21 (Dave Ziolkowski), 1 at Linkwood on Feb. 10, 1 in Ocean City the same day, and 2 in Fruitland on Feb. 11 (Ringler); 1 at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison); 1 at Jug Bay on Feb. 18 (Osenton); and 1 at Triadelphia on Feb. 24 (Farrell). Several **Glaucous Gulls** in first-winter plumage were noted: 1 at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom), 1 at the Appeal landfill in Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 at the Reichs Ford landfill near Frederick on Dec. 30 (Harvey & Marion Mudd), 1 at Upper Marlboro on Jan. 5 (Stasz), 1 at Ocean City on Jan. 9 (Churchill), and 1 at the Tidal Basin in DC on Jan. 26 (Dobbins). A second-winter Glaucous was at Alpha Ridge landfill on Feb. 10 (Scarpulla, Cullison, Olsen).

*Kittiwakes, Terns, Alcids.* Two **Black-legged Kittiwakes** entertained the pelagic party from Ocean City on Feb. 18, as well as a **Common Murre**, 3 **Thick-billed Murres**, 56 **Razorbills**, and 28 unidentified large alcids (Patteson+). Two **Forster's Terns** were noted at the Ocean City inlet on Jan. 1 (Hoffman, Thornton), and another was at Leonardtown on Feb. 27 (Lisa Lister).

*Owls.* On Jan. 31, for the third year in a row, a **Barn Owl** was found roosting in an old photo blind at Bloodsworth Island (Lister). An emaciated **Barred Owl** was captured at Eldersburg for rehabilitation on Jan. 14 (Ringler). The harsh winter no doubt contributed to the fine showing of **Long-eared Owls** with 1 at Cornfield Harbor on Dec. 9 (Craig), 2 near Millington on Dec. 29 and 1 there Jan. 13 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 to 2 near Lily Pons from Dec. 30 through the period (Mckiernan+), 1 at Point Lookout on Jan. 4 (Craig+), 2 at Ellicott Mills Middle School, Howard County on Feb. 10 (Stanton), and 1 at Merkle WMA on Feb. 28 (Stasz). Five **Short-eared Owls** were at Beauvue on Dec. 16 (Cribb), and others were 1 at Allens Fresh on Dec. 21 (Jett), 2 at Andrews AFB on Dec. 22 (Coglins), up to 7 at Taneytown from Dec. 23 to Feb. 4 (Stasz, Ed Boyd, Ringler+), 4 at Quinn Road, Kent County on Dec. 29 (Stasz), 2, three miles northwest of Queen Anne on Jan. 2 (Reese), 1 to 2 throughout the period at Assateague (Churchill), 2 at Blackwater on Jan. 24 (Armistead), 4 at Middle Neck Road, Cecil County on Feb. 10 (Stasz), and 10 at Elliott Island and 2 at Transquaking River Bridge on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell). In line with the big fall banding season, several **Northern Saw-whet Owls** were noted during the winter with 5 at the Frederick Watershed on Dec. 2 and 3 there on Feb. 25 (Huy), 1 at PRNAS on Dec. 4 (Rambo, Lister+), 1 at Ellicott City on Dec. 6 (Stanton), 1 at Dameron on Dec. 10 (Craig), 1 to 2 at Patuxent River SP, Howard County, Dec. 15—Feb. 10 (Sheppard+), 1 found dead at Centennial Lane on Dec. 16 (Stanton), another dead near Bellevue on Dec. 17 (Armistead+), 1 at Queenstown on Dec. 28 (Poet), 4 at Assateague during the Ocean City CBC on Dec. 28 (Robbins+), 1 at the milk plant in Howard County on Jan. 3 (Solem), 1 at Hughes Hollow on Jan. 6 (Huy, Cornelius), and 1 the same day in Kent County (Stasz).

*Phoebes, Horned Larks.* Three hardy **Eastern Phoebes** were discovered at Dameron on Jan. 2 (Craig), another was at Dunkirk on Jan. 6 (Ripley), and still another at Ironsides the same day (Jett). **Horned Larks** were widespread and numerous this winter including: 1150 near Lily Pons on Dec. 10 (Bob Abrams), 200 off Linthicum Road in Howard County on Dec. 16 (Wallace), 1000 at Clark's Lane in Caroline County on Dec. 16 (Stasz, Ricciardi, Rittenhouse), 200 at Bradenbaugh on Dec. 22 (Kirkwood), 150 at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 350 at Ridgley on Jan. 2 (Reese), 163 at Quinn Road, Kent County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 200 at Massey on Jan. 13 (Iliff, Stasz), and on Jan. 15, 125 at Clear Spring, 183 at Route 86 and Mill Point Road, Washington County, 200 west of Keysville Road, Carroll County, and 500 at Uniontown (Iliff, Stasz). Others were 350 off Route 304 south of Route 405 in Queen Anne's County on Jan. 16 (Iliff), 110 at Route 99 just west of Underwood Road, Howard County on Jan. 28 (Bob & Jo Solem+), 200 at Daisy and Bushy Park Roads, Howard County on Feb. 4 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 200 at Waddell's Corner, Dorchester County on Feb. 11 (Stasz), and 168 at Ironshire Station Road, Worcester County on Feb. 19 (Stasz).

*Swallows, Fish Crows, Chickadees, Marsh Wren.* A **Tree Swallow** was noted at Point Lookout on Dec. 6 (Cribb), and others were 5 at West Ocean City on Dec. 31 (Tarter, Hehman, Bromberg), 3 at Assateague on Jan. 2 (Hoffman, Thornton), and 1 at Point Lookout on Feb. 24-25 (Craig, Cribb, Stasz). Up to 700 **Fish Crows** were gathered at the Cecil County landfill on Dec. 16 (Scarpulla, Blom). **Black-capped Chickadees** were sorted out with 1 at Joppatowne at a feeder on Feb. 2 (Ziolkowski), another at a feeder in Pylesville on Feb. 10 (Fry), and 1 at Hollywood from Dec. 26 to Jan. 13 (Rambo). A **Marsh Wren** was discovered at the Patuxent River marsh in Charles County on Dec. 25 (Jett), and another was at Elliott Island on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell).

*Mimids, Pipits, Waxwings.* Solo **Gray Catbirds** were found toughing out the winter at Ashton on Jan. 9 (Rick Sussman), and at Point Lookout on Feb. 4 (Bishop, Craig). Single **Brown Thrashers** were at Harford Glen on Jan. 27 (Jon Cupp, Sr.), at St. Michaels on Feb. 2 (Reese), at Jug Bay on Feb. 18 (Osenton), and at Cornfield Harbor Feb. 25-28 (Craig, Stasz). Three Brown Thrashers were checked off at Scotland on Feb. 7 (Craig). **American Pipits** included 50 at Dameron on Dec. 5 (Craig), 200 at Greenwell SP, St. Mary's County on Dec. 26 (Bob Boxwell), and 20 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig). Jane Farrell and Jo Solem listed 120 **Cedar Waxwings** at Centennial Park on Jan. 5, and 100 were tallied at Point Lookout on Feb. 19 (Craig, Cribb).

*Shrikes, Warblers.* A **Northern Shrike** was at the Wildfowl Trust in Grasonville from Dec. 9 (David Cohen) until at least Dec. 22 (Iliff, Stasz). Another was reported at Assateague from Jan. 14 to Feb. 17 (Churchill). Other than the Lily Pons area, the only **Loggerhead Shrike** was at Route 13, Mardela Springs, Wicomico County on Feb. 19 (Stasz). **Orange-crowned Warblers** reported were single sightings in Worcester County near Berlin on Dec. 24 (Don Broderick) and at South Point on Dec. 28 (David Mozurkewich). Another was discovered at Back River on Dec. 30 (Scarpulla, Blom, Cullison). A **Nashville Warbler** was checked off on Dec. 2 at Dameron (Craig), and **Pine Warblers** included 20 at Point Lookout on Dec. 6 (Cribb), 1 at Dameron on Dec. 10 and 3 there on Feb. 23 (Craig), 3 at UMCF on Dec. 23 (Stasz, Iliff), 1 at Andrews AFB on Jan. 6 (Martha Coglin), 1 at Bellevue on Jan. 24 for the first winter record there (Armistead), 1 at Waldorf on Feb. 25 (Jett), 1 at Great Mills, St. Mary's on Feb. 28 (Rambo, Craig, Lister), and 1 at Dunkirk on Feb. 28 (Ripley). A western race **Palm Warbler** at North Branch made the Allegany CBC on Dec. 16 (Paulus, Simons). Documentation was submitted for a **Wilson's Warbler** at Dunloggin Court, Columbia on Dec. 10 (Kurt Schwarz).

*Towhees, Sparrows.* Twenty-five **Eastern Towhees** were at Point Lookout on Jan. 11 (Craig). Lots of **American Tree Sparrows** were evident with 30 at Lily Pons on Dec. 10 (Robb Brumfield), 2 at Scotland on Dec. 16 (Steve Sanford+), 25 at Spesutie Island, Harford County on Dec. 18 (Webb), 48 at Back River on Dec. 30 (Scarpulla, Blum, Cullison), 25 at Allens Fresh on Jan. 1 (Jett), over 50 at Stemmers Run, Cecil County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 6 at Blacks, Kent County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 7 at Dameron on Jan. 13 (Craig), 46 at Frenchtown Road, Cecil County on Jan. 13 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 at a feeder at Queenstown on Jan. 8, Jan. 14 and Feb. 16 (Poet), 1 at Choptank on Jan. 16 (F.Ford), 30 at Centennial on Jan. 24 (Farrell), 8 at Waldorf on Feb. 4 (Jett), 1 at Smithville, Feb. 11-17 (Scudder), 6 at West Ocean City on Feb. 17 (Hoffman), 15 at Elliott Island on Feb. 17 (Armistead, Russell), 4 at Myrtle Point, St. Mary's County on Feb. 18 (Jane Kostenko, Tyler Bell), and 4 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig, Cribb). **Chipping Sparrows** included 15 at St. Michaels on Dec. 28 (Reese), 1 at a feeder in Bel Air on Jan. 9 and Jan. 12 (Webb), 1 at a feeder in Pylesville on Feb. 3 (Fry), 1 at a feeder at Fountain Green on Feb. 4 (Jon Cupp, Sr.), 1 at Chingville, St. Mary's County on Feb. 18 (Tina Dew), 9 at Stevensville on Feb. 20 (Reese), and 1 at Dameron on Feb. 27 (Craig). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** visited a backyard at Boring on Jan. 3 (Gail Frantz). Several birders reported numerous **Field Sparrows** visiting feeders this season, particularly after snow storms. **Savannah Sparrows** included 13 at Eger Price Road, Cecil County on Jan. 13 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 at a feeder in Queenstown on Jan. 14 (Poet), 4 at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on Jan. 17 (Stasz), and 10 at PRNAS on Feb. 26 (Lister). Highs for the **Fox Sparrow** were 35 at Point Lookout on Jan. 12 (Craig), and 23 at Assateague on Feb. 3 (Churchill). For the **Song Sparrow**, highs were 150 at Scotland on Feb. 26 (Craig, Cribb), and 150 at Assateague on Feb. 28 (Churchill). A

**Lincoln's Sparrow** was located at Upper Marlboro on Dec. 14 (Stasz). An **Oregon Junco** was reported at Mitchellville on Jan. 7 (Mike Shaeffer).

*Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* **Lapland Longspurs** were numerous and widespread including: 2 near Lily Pons on Dec. 1 (Churchill) and up to 12 there on Dec. 10 (Bob Abrams), 3 at PRNAS on Dec. 4 (Craig, Lister, Rambo), 50 at Claggett Center, Frederick County on Dec. 10 (Robb Brumfield), 195 at Clark's Lane, Caroline County on Dec. 16 and several there until Dec. 24 (Iliff), 3 at Ridgely on Dec. 19 (Hewitt), 2 at Uniontown on Dec. 23 (Stasz, Ed Boyd) and Feb. 1 (Ringler), 1 off Triadelphia Mill Road in Howard County on Dec. 25 (Stasz), 2 at God's Grace Point, Calvert County on Dec. 26 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 off Quinn Road, Kent County on Dec. 29 (Stasz), 2 at PRNAS on Jan. 3 (Rambo, Lister+), 1 at Indian Creek WMA on Jan. 14 (Iliff, Jett) for the first Charles County record, 1 at Bradenbaugh on Jan. 13 (Kirkwood), 1 off Route 99 near Underwood Road on Jan. 28 (Farrell, Solem, Coskren), a female at Daisy and Bushy Park Roads in Howard County on Feb. 4 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson), 4 at Bradenbaugh on Feb. 10 (Kirkwood), 9 at Christopher Road, Cecil County on Feb. 10 and 3 at Ironshire Station Road, Worcester County on Feb. 19 (Stasz). **Snow Bunting** sightings were also numerous beginning with 25 on Dec. 3 at Sandy Point S.P. (Matt O'Donnell), and 35 on Dec. 4 at PRNAS (Rambo, Lister, Craig). Some others were 5 on Dec. 22 and Jan. 15 at Bradenbaugh (Kirkwood), 4 on Dec. 19 and 50 on Dec. 28 at Ridgely (Hewitt), and 1 off Triadelphia Mill Road in Howard County on Dec. 25 (Stasz). Highs were 100 at Clark's Lane in Caroline County on Dec. 24 (Iliff, Stasz), 300 at Ridgely on Jan. 14-17 (Scudder), and 50 at PRNAS on Jan. 3 (Lister+).

*Icterines, Finches.* Seventy-five **Eastern Meadowlarks** were at Ridgely on Jan. 15 (Scudder), and a female **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was discovered at Pond Neck Road, Cecil County on Feb. 10 (Stasz). **Rusty Blackbirds** included 10 at Sixes Bridge Road, Carroll County on Jan. 15 (Iliff, Stasz), and 60 at Bollinger School Road, Frederick County on Jan. 21 (Stasz, Ringler). A pair of **Brewer's Blackbirds** were identified at a cattle feed yard at Hassenger's Corner, Kent County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), still present on Jan. 16 (Iliff). A **Baltimore Oriole** was noted at La Plata on Jan. 1 (Jett, Patteson), and 1 to 2 were at Dunkirk from Dec. 16 to Feb. 5 (Ripley). A first-year male was at a feeder at Tanyard on Jan. 26-27 (Engle). Details have been submitted for a female **Pine Grosbeak** at a feeder in Allegany County on Jan. 8 (Paulus). A partial albino **House Finch** and a yellow male were reported at a feeder in Queenstown on Jan. 14 after a snow storm (Poet). A few **Common Redpoll** reports were submitted including 1 at Mountaineale Road, Frederick County on Dec. 16 (Mike Welch), 1 at Stemmer's Run, Cecil County on Jan. 6 (Stasz), 2 at Darnestown on Jan. 20 (Daryl Olson), and 1 at Indian Head, Charles County on Feb. 2 (Carol Gheblian, Jett). One or two were also near Oakland from Feb. 9 to Feb. 20 and 3 were at Bittering on Feb. 18 (Skipper). **Pine Siskins** included 16 near Oakland on Dec. 7 (Skipper), 24 at Havre de Grace on Dec. 16 (Les Eastman), and 16 at Davidsonville on Jan. 23 (Davis). A **European Goldfinch**, most probably an escape, was reported at St. Michaels on Jan. 13 and again on Feb. 24-25 (Stacy Ringle, Len Warriner). **Evening Grosbeaks** were 30 at New Germany SP, Garrett County on Dec. 2 (Churchill), 3 females at a feeder in Queenstown on Dec. 20 (Poet), 15 at Ironside on Jan. 6 (Jett), 14 at PWRC on Jan. 23-29 (Osenton), and a nice count of 50 near Oakland on Feb. 20 (Skipper).

## ALBINISTIC BLUE JAY IN CARROLL COUNTY, MARYLAND

RICHARD JULE HOLLIS

On December 25, 1993, my family and I received an avian present in the form of a brief sighting of an albinistic Blue Jay (*Cyanocitta cristata*) on Stone Road near Pleasant Valley in Carroll County, Maryland.

I had an opportunity to study the bird in detail on the morning of December 29 at the feeders of my grandmother, Mrs. Ora Keefer. This location was only a few hundred meters from the first sighting. Mrs. Keefer regularly feeds birds and had not previously noted such an unusual visitor prior to late December of 1993. Mrs. Keefer last saw this Blue Jay on January 9, 1994.

The following description is edited from my notes which were taken while watching the bird at distances of 3 to 10 meters. I used 7x35 binoculars and my spotting scope as well as unassisted viewing. On both occasions the sky was overcast.

In size and shape the albinistic jay was identical to normally colored jays. Its behavior was similar to the other jays. I am tempted to say that it appeared more cautious or shy than the others, but this is an extremely subjective conclusion based on a very short set of observations.

The eye, bill, and legs were black. The background color of the bird, which appeared gray at first glance, was light sandy brown or very pale gray. The top of the head, including the crest, and the mantle were sandy brown. The wings, tail, lower back, and breast were gray. The feathers that are white on normal Blue Jays (wing bar, face, and secondary tips) were also white on this bird, contrasting with the sandy or gray coloration. No contrast was noted between the tips of the outer tail feathers and the rest of the tail. A faint light-brown barring was noted on the wing and tail feathers. The markings about the face, the necklace, and the thin stripe through the eye, and the heavier mark above the bill were dark chocolate brown.

Birds with unusual plumage are worth noting as they allow us to track individuals, at least for short time periods.

3351 Lower West Branch Rd., Iowa City, Iowa 52245

Received 24 February 1995



## BIRDS OBSERVED EATING ADULT GYPSY MOTHS IN JUNE 1990

JOANNE K. SOLEM

During the early evening of June 25, 1990, my husband, Bob, and I watched three crows (*Corvus* sp.) sail into the tops of several tall oak trees (*Quercus* sp.) in our back yard south of Columbia, in Howard County, in central Maryland. That year we had a heavy infestation of gypsy moths (*Lymantria dispar*) and by this date the females had emerged and begun laying eggs. Watching through binoculars it was easy to see the white insects against the dark bark, and I could see that the crows were seizing and swallowing the female moths. The crows remained for 10 to 15 minutes, staying generally in the interior of the trees at a height of 40 to 50 feet. The only break in the steady foraging was when a brown gypsy moth fluttered past one of the birds, which turned and snatched it from the air. It then returned to its methodical attack on the easily captured females. At no time did any of the crows make a sound that was audible to us, and since both American (*Corvus brachyrhynchos*) and Fish (*C. ossifragus*) Crows occur in the area, it was not possible to determine which species these were.

During the period while we were observing the crows we also watched a Gray Catbird (*Dumetella carolinensis*) pluck a female gypsy moth off a trunk and swallow it whole. On the following day, again early in the evening, an immature Brown Thrasher (*Toxostoma rufum*) was feeding on the ground in the yard. At one point it grabbed a male gypsy moth out of the air and swallowed it whole before resuming its foraging.

On June 27 a Common Grackle (*Quiscalus quiscula*) was feeding on the ground in the yard when it suddenly snatched a male gypsy moth out of the air. After swallowing it whole it pursued another that was fluttering above a patch of *Pachysandra*.

Although gypsy moths in the adult stage may not be a favorite food of many birds, it appears that when they are plentiful, they will be eaten by a number of species.

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Cover: Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Waldorf, MD, Aug. 1991. Photo by George M. Jett



## SOOTY TERN (*Sterna fuscata*) SPECIMEN FROM OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND

GENE K. HESS

At 10:30 a.m. on August 5, 1995, a Sooty Tern (*Sterna fuscata*) was picked up "on rock jetty." It was delivered to the Ocean City Animal Control, then transported to Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc., Newark, Delaware (Tri-State Case 95-041). The bird died later that day. It is most probable the bird was picked up in Ocean City, perhaps at the Inlet, but there are other rock jetties along the Ocean City beach front.

I prepared a study skin from the specimen and saved the truck skeleton (DMNH 80733). The specimen is an adult female (ovary ca. 5x5 mm, granular) and was emaciated (weight 112.9 grams).

Previous reports of Sooty Tern in Maryland include 80 in Wicomico County on September 12, 1960 (Dyke 1960), one in Calvert County on September 5, 1979 (Fales 1979), and several reports on September 6, 1979: one in Talbot County (USNM 600392), one in Baltimore County (specimen in the MOS collection at Cylburn), and two in Anne Arundel County (Ringler 1980). Three reports from Anne Arundel and Talbot Counties on September 7, 1996 await publication (Bruce Peterjohn, pers. comm.).

I thank Bruce Peterjohn for providing information from the Maryland/D.C. Records Committee and references.

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# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Red-throated Loon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Common Loon	7	6	0	0	0	0	13	2	5	0	3	10	32	0	13	5	2	0	0	27	3	0	0	128
Pied-billed Grebe	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	8
Horned Grebe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Double-crested Cormorant	48	38	76	0	12	62	90	130	942	24	146	50	49	115	165	30	24	12	10	143	86	0	1	2253
American Bittern	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Least Bittern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
Great Blue Heron	3	5	12	0	1	26	26	57	123	18	76	77	14	114	62	89	27	42	10	63	19	9	6	879
Great Egret	0	2	3	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	2	8	0	9	18	7	1	0	2	21	4	4	5	91
Snowy Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	5	0	5	2	3	1	2	16	6	6	3	55
Little Blue Heron	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	3	14
Tricolored Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Cattle Egret	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23	27	2	1	1	0	16	3	99	5	0	3	1	0	6	187
Green Heron	4	3	19	1	0	22	31	13	4	3	10	19	7	9	23	13	16	7	5	4	6	2	1	222
Black-crowned Night-Heron	0	0	1	0	4	6	1	4	3	0	0	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10
Glossy Ibis	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	0	0	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	28	48
Black-bellied Whistling-Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Tundra Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	7
Mute Swan	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	1	0	5	2	0	17	101	41	0	23	63	0	0	0	257
Snow Goose	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	6	12
Canada Goose	62	254	627	141	8	572	445	210	374	56	477	93	32	102	79	89	45	46	3	284	122	6	32	4159
Wood Duck	30	47	49	3	6	83	33	30	15	13	130	45	21	21	8	24	17	35	15	20	9	0	7	661
Green-winged Teal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
American Black Duck	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	12	0	3	0	5	3	5	3	0	41	4	12	2	93
Mallard	106	185	90	10	6	108	187	161	94	38	141	112	21	104	59	110	41	197	8	155	38	6	29	2006
Northern Pintail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Blue-winged Teal	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	2	15

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Northern Shoveler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Gadwall	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	16	0	25
American Wigeon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Canvasback	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	4
Redhead	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ring-necked Duck	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Greater Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Lesser Scaup	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Oldsquaw	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Black Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surf Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
White-winged Scoter	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bufflehead	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13
Hooded Merganser	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Common Merganser	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Red-breasted Merganser	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Ruddy Duck	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	4	2	0	0	17	0	0	0	25
Black Vulture	0	21	45	0	0	13	59	4	45	7	9	3	17	9	16	29	15	14	12	6	8	0	0	332
Turkey Vulture	57	65	164	18	1	78	197	82	152	69	98	110	56	62	126	168	64	193	35	126	136	38	56	2151
Osprey	2	3	4	0	0	2	7	14	16	7	49	79	18	70	124	40	25	30	24	42	44	4	5	609
Mississippi Kite	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bald Eagle	1	0	1	0	0	3	1	3	5	2	5	7	4	21	16	11	3	7	3	30	6	0	0	129
Northern Harrier	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	5	3	3	2	3	3	0	4	1	0	3	0	8	0	3	0	47
Sharp-shinned Hawk	1	2	0	1	0	3	5	4	3	0	1	20	1	0	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	47
Cooper's Hawk	2	0	2	0	0	3	5	1	0	0	1	10	2	2	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	31
Red-shouldered Hawk	1	2	15	0	0	25	55	22	4	1	22	15	14	8	10	2	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	202
Broad-winged Hawk	6	10	2	0	0	1	5	3	2	1	1	80	4	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	119

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Red-tailed Hawk	1	18	25	3	0	4	44	20	23	5	22	24	8	8	24	10	6	14	2	7	11	0	1	280
American Kestrel	3	6	14	0	0	0	15	4	0	3	12	6	0	0	2	1	0	3	1	3	2	0	0	75
Merlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Peregrine Falcon	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	3
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	4	0	0	1	5	11	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Ruffed Grouse	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	67
Wild Turkey	8	12	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	10	1	22	1	6	0	0	0	177
Northern Bobwhite	0	2	1	0	0	8	3	4	3	1	13	11	6	17	8	7	27	34	10	13	5	0	4	24
Clapper Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	8	8	6	0	7
King Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	63
Virginia Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	10	0	0	6	22	1	0	0	10
Sora	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	10
Common Moorhen	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	10
American Coot	0	0	2	0	0	7	0	1	2	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	20
Black-bellied Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35	0	0	61	0	0	13	109
Semipalmated Plover	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	30	0	0	2	0	10	1	4	61	45	245	0	0	0	0
Piping Plover	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Killdeer	37	25	47	4	0	9	23	13	36	6	8	16	3	19	29	8	19	42	6	15	40	4	5	414
American Oystercatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Black-necked Stilt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	10	0	12
Greater Yellowlegs	3	8	2	0	0	4	0	4	8	8	14	4	1	2	12	5	0	17	3	41	8	1	0	145
Lesser Yellowlegs	1	1	1	0	0	2	0	1	4	2	0	0	2	0	10	8	2	9	2	10	0	0	0	55
Solitary Sandpiper	7	12	32	0	0	12	36	14	12	4	22	30	0	4	16	3	2	2	1	5	3	1	0	218
Willet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	19	3	18	8	50
Spotted Sandpiper	36	17	17	4	0	33	28	28	25	2	26	30	23	11	36	18	8	18	0	24	0	0	0	392
Upland Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ruddy Turnstone	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	9
Red Knot	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carlin	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Sanderling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4
Semipalmated Sandpiper	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	5	0	0	8	0	3	1	0	41	4	15	0	0	0	102
Western Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Least Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	1	5	9	40	52	0	1	1	3	7	62	3	71	16	225	15	10	0	521
White-rumped Sandpiper	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	13
Peep sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	0	0	1	0	0	0	31	0	13	6	0	0	0	0	0	69
Pectoral Sandpiper	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	5
Dunlin	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	180	0	0	0	188
Short-billed Dowitcher	25	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	42
Common Snipe	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
American Woodcock	3	0	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	5	1	1	1	5	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	23
Wilson's Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Red-necked Phalarope	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Laughing Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	150	0	224	292	73	19	513	834	308	171	248	240	470	195	52	3797
Bonaparte's Gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	34	33	0	0	0	0	0	1	813	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	881
Ring-billed Gull	12	0	1	0	35	7	32	190	867	206	260	36	92	78	120	2705	249	50	4	10	8	1	12	4975
Herring Gull	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	29	47	4	0	34	11	23	483	64	0	0	2	275	20	6	1	1000
Great Black-backed Gull	0	0	0	0	12	0	0	43	95	0	0	9	0	7	8	6	0	0	3	3	2	0	0	186
Gull sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	52
Caspian Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	74	0	2	2	2	0	0	9	0	0	0	11	0	0	3	110
Royal Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	90	44	4	0	0	0	20	52	0	0	220
Common Tern	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	0	0	1	7	0	15	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	36
Forster's Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	13	0	25	39	7	43	57	23	5	15	1	77	52	16	2	376
Sterna sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Least Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	1	0	0	0	4	0	9	5	3	0	3	4	0	0	0	62
Black Tern	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Black Skimmer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rock Dove	43	139	132	0	36	45	350	224	226	11	53	46	37	6	55	43	45	74	20	2	1	1	2	1591

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Mourning Dove	65	211	191	26	16	138	381	208	350	35	239	161	84	100	170	46	40	117	19	21	75	25	14	2732
Black-billed Cuckoo	3	4	10	0	0	4	7	5	6	3	5	1	0	1	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	53
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	1	7	27	0	1	26	12	11	3	2	35	14	2	19	8	7	5	8	6	9	15	2	5	225
Barn Owl	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	15	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	21
Eastern Screech-Owl	0	0	10	0	0	0	1	0	4	0	0	2	3	1	2	15	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	43
Great Horned Owl	1	0	2	0	0	1	3	1	9	1	2	0	2	0	2	20	0	5	4	1	0	0	0	54
Barred Owl	1	0	5	0	0	4	3	3	3	0	9	5	2	6	7	2	1	10	1	1	0	0	0	63
Northern Saw-whet Owl	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Common Nighthawk	0	0	0	0	1	5	7	9	0	0	11	21	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	55
Chuck-will's-widow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	2	4	0	16	12	0	0	7	7	1	0	4	59
Whip-poor-will	1	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	8	6	4	8	4	1	3	0	5	0	3	0	0	0	53
Chimney Swift	122	286	257	14	65	97	316	198	192	32	492	111	78	892	144	59	44	130	55	27	64	5	9	3689
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	40	33	21	5	0	15	32	21	52	3	42	13	23	6	25	23	5	17	9	5	11	0	6	407
Belted Kingfisher	1	8	7	2	0	2	15	7	10	1	13	8	4	4	6	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	0	98
Red-headed Woodpecker	1	1	2	0	0	2	0	0	5	0	2	2	4	19	4	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	2	48
Red-bellied Woodpecker	4	61	83	7	8	78	223	79	95	27	145	65	29	40	57	31	36	42	17	15	14	3	7	1166
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Downy Woodpecker	32	51	37	3	3	38	112	43	31	6	35	28	10	13	15	12	7	15	6	7	5	3	5	517
Hairy Woodpecker	9	9	8	2	0	7	23	9	7	1	12	6	5	3	4	7	3	6	3	0	2	0	1	127
Northern Flicker	31	45	26	9	0	37	89	48	64	19	37	27	11	9	22	25	15	10	10	12	6	0	8	560
Pileated Woodpecker	10	17	16	2	1	23	36	7	6	4	18	7	9	12	6	0	2	15	2	9	1	1	3	207
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Eastern Wood-Pewee	20	17	73	8	3	62	144	74	52	36	92	20	33	45	50	27	21	22	9	11	29	4	7	859
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Acadian Flycatcher	5	1	63	5	1	82	170	78	114	24	97	44	26	56	45	17	10	11	3	4	13	2	9	880
Alder Flycatcher	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Willow Flycatcher	0	0	2	0	0	3	2	4	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16
Least Flycatcher	5	1	1	0	0	3	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	15



# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Empidonax sp.	0	0	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	4	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Eastern Phoebe	20	30	25	4	2	26	41	20	32	7	42	14	8	7	7	11	2	22	2	0	0	0	3	325
Great Crested Flycatcher	20	56	72	7	4	74	49	48	14	10	33	24	6	34	31	46	36	74	43	45	58	2	18	804
Eastern Kingbird	19	43	73	10	2	48	174	79	120	32	108	96	19	54	91	36	18	42	89	14	37	4	5	1213
Horned Lark	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	32	3	9	42	3	46	8	2	5	0	0	161
Purple Martin	29	135	28	18	0	14	52	24	111	49	54	39	41	154	150	85	22	328	47	125	309	70	18	1902
Tree Swallow	338	112	57	14	0	139	74	46	784	160	135	66	13	28	52	176	31	202	5	50	31	13	9	2535
N. Rough-winged Swallow	45	38	45	0	25	84	52	74	37	10	11	16	26	26	21	19	2	22	1	1	7	0	0	562
Bank Swallow	49	0	0	0	0	0	3	604	61	10	6	37	1	0	3	74	0	24	3	3	0	0	0	878
Cliff Swallow	75	2	0	0	0	7	81	25	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	194
Barn Swallow	900	190	346	13	48	99	302	228	726	55	160	155	54	174	277	217	66	240	69	115	177	27	16	4654
Blue Jay	174	335	267	19	20	386	1147	506	476	79	305	1563	103	53	151	91	64	92	31	10	65	9	14	5960
American Crow	322	385	238	14	70	236	621	329	280	30	332	233	35	174	318	88	39	132	56	42	85	7	20	4086
Fish Crow	0	13	51	3	3	49	59	15	17	10	50	18	32	14	39	40	13	23	11	16	9	5	4	494
Crow sp.	0	0	0	16	0	86	402	52	0	0	56	85	0	0	52	0	21	13	2	0	11	3	11	810
Common Raven	3	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Black-capped Chickadee	87	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	90
Carolina Chickadee	0	68	73	9	23	146	268	143	176	27	154	93	29	57	75	100	18	39	5	9	27	3	19	1561
Chickadee sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0	0	0	17
Tufted Titmouse	57	104	131	15	23	167	397	120	14	46	265	121	51	81	140	96	53	46	23	19	52	3	21	2045
Red-breasted Nuthatch	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
White-breasted Nuthatch	38	23	13	4	0	24	58	22	14	9	20	7	1	8	0	1	2	1	1	0	1	0	2	249
Brown-headed Nuthatch	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	9
Brown Creeper	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Carolina Wren	2	17	40	7	13	40	81	33	13	11	40	32	13	19	24	22	11	24	6	13	16	0	6	491
House Wren	32	75	88	12	0	79	124	74	40	10	26	20	2	1	5	19	8	20	2	10	32	2	6	687
Winter Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sedge Wren	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carin	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Marsh Wren	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	68	0	1	0	1	3	14	20	88	3	0	0	30	2	10	0	241
Golden-crowned Kinglet	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	6	0	0	0	0	10	4	2	0	0	1	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	40	30	116	14	12	162	289	127	164	32	150	68	26	77	35	34	13	5	3	5	19	6	20	1447
Eastern Bluebird	25	126	50	12	2	28	92	30	138	6	101	49	25	53	103	65	20	91	8	26	26	0	13	1089
Veery	13	10	10	3	22	15	33	101	34	7	13	4	2	0	2	4	3	0	6	1	1	0	2	286
Gray-cheeked Thrush	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Bicknell's Thrush	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Swainson's Thrush	2	11	8	0	14	23	39	63	37	3	38	10	1	4	7	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	267
Hermit Thrush	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Wood Thrush	28	77	167	31	19	89	421	127	251	116	239	87	30	61	189	101	49	45	27	12	35	0	19	2220
American Robin	437	415	632	74	57	113	527	473	1170	60	303	167	223	93	207	643	116	505	176	125	168	24	32	6740
Gray Catbird	104	164	312	70	18	246	652	533	206	159	155	97	24	35	66	143	51	35	10	7	31	30	19	3167
Northern Mockingbird	0	103	112	9	7	46	184	91	264	44	114	73	25	53	126	100	32	97	12	16	45	7	11	1571
Brown Thrasher	17	35	16	3	0	11	24	17	33	6	28	32	14	17	40	26	19	15	4	1	3	0	12	373
American Pipit	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32
Cedar Waxwing	40	48	144	0	22	406	749	339	279	128	382	114	41	103	104	79	18	15	12	9	0	0	0	3032
Loggerhead Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
European Starling	344	775	1488	32	100	185	1171	762	1083	101	557	287	231	230	499	356	208	1108	66	125	662	95	58	10523
White-eyed Vireo	26	9	13	3	0	47	166	58	70	20	85	72	24	46	117	13	17	20	5	7	35	3	19	875
Solitary Vireo	3	5	3	0	0	5	3	0	2	3	3	3	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	38
Yellow-throated Vireo	4	12	9	2	0	14	28	14	34	12	38	9	2	15	1	5	1	0	2	0	2	0	3	207
Warbling Vireo	0	18	24	1	0	15	8	7	24	8	1	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	112
Philadelphia Vireo	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Red-eyed Vireo	118	85	206	11	32	272	526	288	172	124	466	193	106	190	204	90	40	47	16	11	60	5	13	3275
Blue-winged Warbler	2	10	7	2	0	6	22	1	8	7	5	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	72
Brewster's hybrid	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Golden-winged Warbler	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Tennessee Warbler	1	9	2	0	7	7	7	2	1	2	6	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	49
Orange-crowned Warbler	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Nashville Warbler	7	2	2	0	0	9	5	4	0	1	6	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39
Northern Parula	20	4	25	4	3	120	169	75	39	18	138	69	49	102	51	22	5	2	9	3	6	1	9	943
Yellow Warbler	85	34	49	11	2	25	174	107	40	29	33	15	4	12	11	114	6	0	2	5	10	12	0	780
Chestnut-sided Warbler	51	9	4	0	2	23	38	22	3	1	19	4	4	0	11	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	197
Magnolia Warbler	30	11	8	0	10	16	61	42	37	8	40	25	14	1	24	21	1	1	9	0	0	0	0	359
Cape May Warbler	7	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	3	1	2	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	27	14	19	1	9	10	29	37	15	11	32	10	17	5	11	3	3	0	8	1	0	0	0	262
Yellow-rumped Warbler	126	53	66	5	42	134	139	93	130	26	211	29	8	11	16	83	29	8	11	3	4	0	12	1239
Black-thr. Green Warbler	36	8	8	0	3	13	27	25	15	3	25	6	1	3	10	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	194
Blackburnian Warbler	27	12	5	0	3	9	14	12	13	1	32	2	1	0	1	8	1	1	4	0	0	0	0	146
Yellow-throated Warbler	0	2	0	0	0	20	3	0	7	1	6	6	13	9	7	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	7	91
Pine Warbler	0	3	1	0	0	12	3	4	0	2	13	5	9	14	29	13	1	5	16	12	31	0	7	180
Prairie Warbler	1	2	7	3	0	50	49	15	26	6	36	46	5	41	57	2	3	35	1	5	16	0	10	416
Palm Warbler	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Bay-breasted Warbler	20	26	8	0	13	11	26	9	1	1	78	6	2	0	2	13	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	217
Blackpoll Warbler	0	0	22	0	17	38	70	24	60	12	32	33	15	13	16	5	0	2	3	0	6	0	4	372
Cerulean Warbler	5	1	13	0	0	5	8	0	7	1	1	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	44
Black-and-white Warbler	31	3	4	0	4	9	40	25	24	13	47	22	11	25	27	5	8	5	2	1	15	0	7	328
American Redstart	63	10	42	4	13	58	106	80	72	10	70	67	20	24	14	14	3	0	3	2	8	0	15	698
Prothonotary Warbler	0	0	8	0	0	17	2	1	14	1	11	3	8	10	1	10	13	9	1	2	24	1	22	158
Worm-eating Warbler	3	11	10	2	0	4	27	8	41	10	1	1	5	2	18	8	0	0	3	3	20	0	9	186
Ovenbird	76	29	35	6	16	38	211	92	92	85	457	69	30	67	75	38	18	22	7	8	47	6	27	1551
Northern Waterthrush	7	2	3	0	1	13	18	10	3	1	1	6	1	2	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	75
Louisiana Waterthrush	4	7	26	2	0	32	39	15	27	8	4	8	5	9	3	3	2	1	2	0	3	1	10	211
Kentucky Warbler	16	1	10	0	0	5	52	19	33	15	39	11	16	26	18	15	8	9	3	1	1	0	3	301
Mourning Warbler	0	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carlin	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Common Yellowthroat	111	38	75	27	2	127	348	225	170	139	221	137	39	71	174	367	64	35	37	55	78	13	13	2566
Hooded Warbler	18	2	13	0	1	5	33	20	9	12	68	37	20	38	4	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	285
Wilson's Warbler	1	0	0	0	0	1	7	1	2	1	2	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	22
Canada Warbler	6	3	2	1	9	9	36	26	19	1	22	8	3	0	4	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	156
Yellow-breasted Chat	11	11	6	0	0	22	34	18	13	16	40	29	8	36	26	17	6	24	11	10	14	0	12	364
Summer Tanager	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	4	0	7	6	20	12	39	1	0	2	2	20	12	0	3	131
Scarlet Tanager	72	30	61	11	7	71	194	96	100	45	99	54	41	54	48	40	14	20	8	3	23	3	4	1098
Northern Cardinal	57	228	294	58	24	252	834	292	369	100	361	223	77	120	258	248	66	116	25	12	85	10	23	4132
Rose-Breasted Grosbeak	74	21	8	8	0	8	32	38	31	10	12	15	8	1	6	3	3	1	23	0	3	0	1	306
Blue Grosbeak	0	4	2	0	0	1	7	6	9	4	24	27	6	27	63	19	9	41	27	11	52	1	0	340
Indigo Bunting	130	112	213	17	9	185	253	132	131	120	311	96	42	154	181	113	53	51	20	7	53	6	5	2394
Dickcissel	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Rufous-sided Towhee	129	84	65	17	18	59	210	90	62	41	107	70	9	34	66	48	27	11	2	9	35	1	18	1212
Chipping Sparrow	225	195	83	14	0	32	116	50	277	22	80	37	31	47	149	39	32	97	13	35	65	1	14	1654
Field Sparrow	42	31	58	9	0	35	101	23	21	17	49	31	2	26	39	24	44	18	12	2	34	0	3	621
Vesper Sparrow	2	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	11
Savannah Sparrow	23	0	2	0	0	0	3	7	6	0	7	6	0	0	9	2	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	69
Grasshopper Sparrow	10	9	21	2	0	13	11	1	14	10	13	3	8	36	111	29	20	24	10	3	2	0	0	350
Henslow's Sparrow	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	7	0	6	0	14
Seaside Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	45	0	12	0	63
Fox Sparrow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Song Sparrow	99	83	99	12	2	30	167	106	83	22	63	26	21	18	31	16	15	20	4	5	8	2	1	933
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	1	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11
Swamp Sparrow	23	0	0	0	0	2	5	65	3	1	4	6	4	2	0	10	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	130
White-throated Sparrow	10	18	9	1	1	12	29	30	14	1	14	23	16	0	12	12	4	0	9	1	0	0	0	216
White-crowned Sparrow	6	6	5	0	0	4	16	2	0	1	2	0	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	46
Dark-eyed Junco	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	11

# STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, MAY 11, 1996 (continued)

SPECIES:	Garr	Wash	Fred	Carr	D.C.	Mont	Howd	Balto	Harf	Cecil	P.G.	A.A.	Calv	Chas	St. M	Kent	Q.A.	Carln	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Somr	Worc	Total
Bobolink	100	34	96	0	0	44	161	452	220	31	61	75	0	1	249	10	30	28	1	7	0	0	0	1600
Red-winged Blackbird	364	263	610	44	30	190	726	624	858	343	434	392	119	516	575	1093	309	441	161	450	533	75	30	9180
Eastern Meadowlark	32	54	59	3	0	11	12	8	33	15	9	7	3	21	32	9	9	5	7	11	10	2	4	356
Rusty Blackbird	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Boat-tailed Grackle	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	6	6	18	0	33
Common Grackle	256	711	1212	84	40	223	777	298	974	192	294	314	320	511	917	1850	342	1118	410	415	573	41	24	11896
Brown-headed Cowbird	133	69	110	20	15	79	257	145	106	42	162	56	57	46	121	186	65	111	25	44	119	8	47	2023
Blackbird sp.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	6
Orchard Oriole	7	5	12	0	3	21	63	22	33	24	26	41	10	37	20	50	25	150	19	46	53	3	5	675
Northern Oriole	107	156	97	16	8	42	131	98	113	34	32	25	5	11	5	43	23	52	3	5	6	0	4	1003
Purple Finch	20	53	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	77
House Finch	41	181	108	8	38	31	272	184	164	57	96	108	64	64	143	273	57	81	21	7	19	0	2	2019
Pine Siskin	13	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	35
American Goldfinch	209	219	238	36	41	193	429	453	2	73	196	214	144	109	210	268	66	146	27	36	40	15	40	3404
Evening Grosbeak	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
House Sparrow	79	230	307	15	10	67	207	231	133	16	138	71	47	49	208	140	41	466	17	16	46	3	3	2540
Total Species:	151	140	140	77	74	146	151	166	160	140	152	158	148	128	171	179	121	121	134	156	114	81	104	250
Total Individuals:	7443	8343	11369	1141	1162	7628	19039	12323	16150	3884	11990	8379	3570	6515	10168	13992	3788	8234	2452	4985	5514	1001	1173	170245
Observers	19	21	26	4	1	40	66	47	40	11	48	22	12	10	23	13	8	12	5	6	8	6	7	455
Parties	12	11	12	2	1	22	32	19	18	5	27	15	5	5	13	5	7	7	4	2	5	3	5	237
Party-hours	48	32	40	5	6	96	196	108	51	41	115	66	40	25	49	13	11	24	16	18	22	5	13	1040



Participants: Henry T. Armistead, Jesse Arnold, Jean Artes, Linda Baker, Marge Baldwin, Bill Balfour, Maud Banks, Tony Barbour, Wain Barnes, Marty Barron, Polly Batchelder, Ken Bauer, Tom Beal, Genevieve Beck, Tyler Bell, Debby Bennett, Eila Bennett, John Bennett, Becky Bergreow, Mary-Jo Betts, Bonnie Bick, Kathleen Bielicki, Anne Bishop, John Bjerke, Erik Blom, Bill Blum, Karan Blum, David Bolton, Larry Bonham, Daniel Boone, Jon K. Boone, Joy Bowen, Michael Bowen, Laura Bowman, Bob Boxwell, Jim Boxwell, Frank Boyle, Vera Brechbiel, Carol Broderick, Donald Broderick, Judy Bromley, Judy Burdette, Renee Burns, Danny Bystrak, Michael Callahan, Kathy Calvert, Todd Campbell, Mary Jo Campbell, Barbara Canfield, John Canoles, Noot Canoles, Geoffrey Cant, Catherine Cant, Ellen Caswell, Robert Caswell, George Chase, Rick Cheicante, Marty Chestem, Ed Clark, Les Coble, Dan Collins, Tom Congersky, Don Conley, Barry Cooper, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Bryce Cramer, Lisa Crawford, Judy Crews, Marty Cribbs, Randy Crook, Richard Crook, Ralph Cullison, Jon Cupp Jr, Jon Cupp Sr, Phil Davis, John Dawson, Lou DeMouy, John Dennis, Mary Alice Dennis, Bob Donaldson, Don Dow, Barbara Dowell, Malcolm Doying, Robert Doyle, Janet Duney, Sam Dyke, Mark Eanes, Les Eastman, Ward Ebert, Darius Ecker, Paula Ecker, Jeff Effinger, Graham Egerton, Courtney Englar, Ethel Engle, Muffin Evander, John H. Fales, Frederick Fallon, Jane Fallon, Jane Farber, Rick Farrar, Jane Farrell, Charles Finley, Patty Finley, Charlotte Folk, Steve Ford, Doug Forsel, Melanie Fouche, Gail Frantz, Harry Frantz, Jim Fregonara, Jeff Friedhoffer, Linda Friedland, Jean Fry, Larry Fry, Cora Fulton, Becky Garling, Chris Garrett, Lisa Bierer Garrett, Shirley Geddes, Jane Geuder, Ralph Geuder, Carol Ghebelian, Rich Giannola, Nancy Goodman, Gregory Gough, Edwin Gould, Kevin Graff, LeJay Graffious, David L. Gray, Josephine Gray, Robert Griffin, Mary Joyce Griffin, Kevin Gross, Barbara Gross, Jim Gruber, Meg Guernsey, Dot Gustafson, Carol Haft, David Haft, Peter Hanan, Linda Hardman, Lynn Harold, Bud Harrison, Linda Harrison, Thomas Harten, Dave Harvey, Maureen Harvey, Jeff Hatfield, Al Haury, Kevin Heffernan, Jane Heim, Wilbur Hersherberger, Rob Hilton, Steve Hitchner, Don Hollway, David Holmes, Dick Homan, Barbara Hopkins, John Horton, Helen Horrocks, Sheila Hughes, Stephen Hult, Mary Humphreys, Miriam Hursey, Elizabeth Huxford, Edith Jack, Simone Jenion, Kye Jenkins, George Jett, Bill Jones, Claudia Jones, Donald Jones, Kay Jones, Vince Jones, Margaret Kaiser, Sukon Kanchanaraksa, Lois Kauffman, Heather Kauffman, Robert Keedy, Cherry Keller, Linda Keller, Julie Kelly, Peter Kenny, Lynn Kenny, Mike Kerwin, Jim King, Dennis Kirkwood, Elliot Kirschbaum, Nancy Kirschbaum, Sadie Kinsinger, Hillar Klandorf, Lea Knapp, Brian Knedler, Jane Kostenko, Russel Kovach, Vicky Kraft, Ben Kramer, Jake Kramer, Walter Kraus, Anu Krishnamoorthy, Marci Krishnamoorthy, Dave Kubitsky, Bill Kulp, Marjorie Kupiec, Jeanne Lacerte, Robyn Landry, Ray Lane, Kathleen Lathrop, Dorothy Lauber, Ellen Lawler, Gerry Lawton, Willie Lent, Dolly Leonig, Henry Leskiner, Mike Leumas, Joseph Lewandowski, Dorothy Lewis, Lloyd Lewis, Norma Lewis, Judy Lilga, Roland Limpert, Douglas Lister, Lisa Lister, Annette Livengood, James Livengood, Jessica Livengood, Shane Livengood, Cindy Loeper, Suzette Lopez, Ann Lucy, Bob Lukinic, Bob Lund, Brigitte Lund, Brian Lusky, Leonard Lutwack, Lucy MacClintock, Nancy MacClintock, Michele Maciorowski, Gail Mackiernan, Nancy Magnusson, Ann Marsh, Elwood Martin, Gloria Martin, Heidi Martin, Rich Mason, James McCann, Grazina McClure, Mike McClure, Betty McCoy, Raymond McCoy, Taylor McLean, Don Mehlman, Mieke Mehlman, Helen Melaney, Michele Melia, Don Merritt, Elayne Metter, Jeff Metter, Sharon Miles, Elvera Michell, Janet Millenson, Charles Miller, Carolyn Mills, Joey Minnick, Ann Mitchell, Michael Moffatt, Dotty Mumford, Rosamond Munro, Laurence Murphy, Lee Murray, Harold Nelson, Erich Neupert, Cheryl Newcomb, Jane Nicolich, Paul Nistico, Paul Noell, Marianna Nuttle, Amy O'Connor, Mary O'Leary, Ted Oberman, Lola Obermen, Doug Odermatt, Beth Olsen, Daryl Olson, Kate Olson, Jeff Opel, Richard Orr, Calvin Orvis, Pete Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Sharon Overholser, John Pangborn, Jay

Pape, Nancy Parker, Doug Parker, Floyd Parks, Zachary Parks, Ed Pembleton, Seliesa Pembleton, Leanne Pemburn, Mark Pemburn, Gary Pendleton, Patsy Perlman, Dave Perry, Bill Pfingston, Joe Picard, Betty Pitney, Fred Pittenger, Lana Pittenger, Mac Plant, Marie Plante, Danny Poet, Ron Polniaszek, Bill Pope, Fran Pope, Suzanne Procell, Katie Prothero, Bill Quynn, Gail Quynn, Kyle Rambo, Ann Marie Raterman, Sharon Raun, Joanna Rawlings, Anne Redfern, Ken Redinger, Jan Reese, Bobbi Reichwein, Frank Reilly, Ann Reinhart, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Rineer, Bob Ringler, Arlene Ripley, Chan Robbins, Billy Robinson, Johnna Robinson, Jeremy Robinson, Ross Robinson, Brian Rogers, Brian Rollfinke, Roberta Ross, Terry Ross, Nancy Rowe, Mark Runkles, Ron Runkles, Phil Rusch, Sharyn Rusch, Kathy Russell, Steve Sanford, Steve Sarro, Gene Scarpulla, Lydia Schindler, Susan Schneider, John Schorp, Judy Sconyers, Bill Scudder, Susan Setterberg, Al Sharpsteen, Bev Sharpsteen, E.J. Shepherd, Janet Shields, Diane Shields, Christine Shipe, Craig Sholley, Don Simonson, Lucy Simonson, Connie Skipper, David R. Smith, Ed Smith, Michael Smith, Romaine Smith, Jo Solem, Bob Solem, Stephanian Sommerman, Barry Spalding, Kathryn Speicher, Paul Spitzer, Hank Stanton, Lisa Stevens, Nancy Stewart, Chuck Stirrat, Tom Strikwerda, Paul Sturm, Carolyn Sturtevant, Tod Sukontanak, Ronald Sundergill, Stan Sundergill, Eva Sunnell, Rick Sussman, Chris Swarth, John Swartz, John Swenson, Hayward Swisher, Cheryl Swope, Rene Szczecinski, Joe Szczecinski, Peter Tango, Jerry Tarbell, Laura Tarbell, John Taylor, Dave Terlizzi, Debbie Terry, Glenn Therres, Elizabeth Thompson, John Thrasher, Jean Tierney, Isabel Todd, Michael Todd, Fred Tomaszewski, Lillian Tomaszewski, Paul Tolson, Eric Tribbey, Marjorie Tucker, K.L. Updegrove, Judy Van Dyke, Charles Vaughn, Gail Vaughn, Dave Walbeck, Beverly Walker, Warren Walker, David Wallace, Mark Wallace, Laurie Walther, Frank Warfield, Len Warriner, Dave Webb, Brittany Webster, Dave Weesner, Ryan Weesner, Leo Weigant, Carol Weigant, Michael Welch, Bill Wells, Joy Wheeler, Tomo Wiggins, Carol Wilkinson, Jim Wilkinson, Ernest Willoughby, Andrew Wilmot, George Wilmot, Pat Wilson, David Winer, Jane Winer, David Winner, Betty Wolf, Robert Wood, Roger Wood, Shirley Wood, Jeanne Woods, Paul Woodward, John Wortman, Michele Wright, Beth Zang, Helen Zeichner, Dave Ziolkowski Jr, Elizabeth Zucker, Paul Zucker, Sherry Zucker, John Zyla.

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Compendia, STATEWIDE MAY COUNT, 1995. The following species were inadvertently dropped from the summary that was published in the December 1996 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*, vol. 52, pp. 130-131.

Species:	Alle	A.A.	Balt	Calv	Crn	Carr	Cecil	Chas	Dorch	Fred	Garr	Harf	Howd	Kent	Mont	P.G.	Q.A.	SLM.	Som	Talb	Wash	Wico	Worc	Total
Tricolored Heron	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
Common Goldeneye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Bufflehead	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15
Hooded Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Common Merganser	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	12
Red-breasted Merganser	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	6	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Ruddy Duck	0	0	4	20	1	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	33
Black Vulture	0	35	14	12	6	13	31	32	14	28	0	16	40	27	8	7	5	16	0	5	6	3	0	318
Turkey Vulture	48	82	99	82	111	61	66	55	96	131	67	122	149	134	56	64	107	102	33	31	73	134	17	1918
Osprey	3	60	29	33	19	1	11	56	53	1	1	23	5	58	3	24	39	75	15	31	3	24	8	575
Bald Eagle	0	3	3	2	3	0	4	21	29	0	0	33	2	10	3	5	7	4	2	4	0	1	0	136
Northern Harrier	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	3	10	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	4	1	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	37
Cooper's Hawk	1	2	8	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	25
Red-shouldered Hawk	2	10	27	7	1	6	5	15	1	9	2	8	55	3	19	21	0	17	0	0	3	2	1	214
Broad-winged Hawk	4	44	15	0	0	1	3	0	0	3	11	3	5	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	12	0	0	103
Red-tailed Hawk	6	7	18	13	3	21	5	11	14	18	13	30	37	8	8	19	7	17	1	5	13	9	0	283
American Kestrel	2	3	12	2	2	2	0	0	1	15	5	5	10	2	1	8	1	2	0	0	9	0	0	82
Merlin *	0	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Peregrine Falcon *	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9
Ring-necked Pheasant	0	0	13	0	0	2	0	0	3	3	0	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	29
Ruffed Grouse	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	24	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	6	0	0	0	41
Wild Turkey	18	0	10	2	6	2	0	0	2	11	35	4	0	1	4	0	3	1	0	4	26	0	0	129
Northern Bobwhite	1	14	3	14	60	0	5	15	21	3	0	39	2	13	2	20	43	22	12	38	8	39	5	379
Black Rail	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8
Total Species (corrected):	138	144	164	142	118	105	141	132	171	141	145	159	141	159	135	154	127	156	80	128	137	121	80	245

2617 Guilford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218



## SPRING MIGRATION MARCH 1 - MAY 31, 1996

**DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH AND LINDA SOUTHWORTH**

Early spring mirrored the stormy winter, with lingering snow present, and there was flooding in the Piedmont after the late thaw. It was a good spring for rarities, and there were some noticeable early records, despite the fact that there were no major movements of migrants until the second week in May. In late May, cold and wet weather returned.

*Observers:* Henry & Liz Armistead, George Armistead, Rick Blom, Harold Boling, Larry Bonham, Deborah Bowers, Martha Chestem, Dennis Coskren, Randy Crook, Richard Crook, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Darius Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Gary Griffith (reporting for Cecil County), Marvin Hewitt, Mark Johnson, Mike Kerwin, Dennis Kirkwood, Nancy Magnusson, Sean McCandless, Mike & Grazina McClure, Carol & Paul Newman, Paul Nistico, Mariana Nuttle, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jan Reese, Sue Ricciardi, Bob Ringler, Karl Schwarz, Bill Scudder, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Don Soubie, Dan & Linda Southworth, Chuck Stirrat, Mary Twigg, David Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Robert Warfield, Dave Webb (reporting for Harford County), Jim Wilkinson, John Wortman, Helen Zeichner, Dave Ziolkowski.

*Abbreviations:* DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard County), WMA - Wildlife Management Area, WS - Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Bethel WMA (Cecil), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Browns Bridge (Howard), Courthouse Point (Cecil), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), Elliott Island (Dorchester), Fort Smallwood Park (Anne Arundel), Gunpowder River (Harford), Hains Point (DC), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Lake Kittamaquundi (Howard), Little Falls (Montgomery), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Martinak SP (Caroline), Meadow Park (Cecil), Meadowside Nature Center (Montgomery), Merkle WS (Prince George's), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Swallow Falls SP (Garrett), Sycamore Landing (Montgomery), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard, unless noted otherwise), Tuckahoe SP (Caroline), Tydings Island (Harford).

*Loons, Grebes, Gannets, Cormorants, Anhingas.* A **Red-throated Loon** was observed at Fort Smallwood Park on March 20 (Ricciardi), and 3 were at Ocean City on April 3 (Reese). The solo **Red-throated** at Tuckahoe SP on May 12 was pretty late, particularly for so far inland (Danny Poet, Debby Bennett, L. Coble). Steve Simon found a **Common Loon** at Loch Raven on March 16 and 11 there on March 24. Others included 30 at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell), 22 flyovers at Blackwater on May 11 and 3 at Bellevue on May 25 (Harry & Liz Armistead+), and the last report from Lake Elkhorn on May 31 (Ecker). The last **Pied-billed Grebe** at Wilde Lake was also reported on May 31 (Newmans). Steve Simon checked off 14 **Horned Grebes** at Loch Raven on March 27. About 450 Horned Grebes were tallied at Hains Point on April 5 (Ottavio Janni), the same day several flocks totaling 225 birds were counted at Triadelphia (Farrell, Coskren). Jo Solem found a flock of 14 Horned Grebes still at Centennial on April 5 along with 2 **Red-necked Grebes**. A **Red-necked** was at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell, Coskren), where as many as 8 were seen off-and-on from March 14 (Wilkinson, Zeichner, Solems). It was a good spring for **Red-neckeds**, with others including 10 at Fort Smallwood on March 10 (Ricciardi), 1 at the Gunpowder River on March 16 (Blom), 10 at Loch Raven on March 31 with 3 still present April 12 (Simon), 1 at Ocean City on April 3 (Reese), 2 lingering on a farm pond at Port Tobacco on April 7 (Nistico), 1 still at Centennial on April 11 (Farrell), and 1 at Rocky Gap SP on April 8 (Twigg). Harry, Liz and George Armistead noted 9 adult **Northern Gannets** at Bellevue on April 6. Jan Reese observed 12 gannets at Ocean City on April 27 as well as 2 **Brown Pelicans** and 2 **Great Cormorants**. Another **Great Cormorant** was at Salisbury on March 23 (Dyke). **Double-crested Cormorants** included 3 at Denton on March 12 (Hewitt), 2 at Loch Raven on March 31 with 15 there on April 15 (Simon), 31 at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell), 1 at North Branch on April 13 (Twigg), 58 at Chesapeake Isles, Cecil County on April 20 (Griffith), and 65 at Trappe on April 21 and over 350 at Ocean City on April 27 (Reese). **Anhingas** this season even surpassed the surprises of last spring with several reports at various Maryland and Virginia locations. Two males were at the North Tract of the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Anne Arundel County on May 27 (Bruce Peterjohn, Mary Gustafson), and again on May 28 (Osenton, Gough). Once again, one appeared at Lake Merle in Frederick County April 27-28 (Hudgens), and one was at Lily Pons on May 4 (Warfield). Something unusual appears to be occurring as even a *large flock* of **Anhingas**, up to 33 birds at one point on May 4 (Barbour), was discovered by Walter Kraus at Hickory Hills in Calvert County on May 3.

*Herons, Ibises.* An **American Bittern** was at Assateague on April 3 (Reese), another was near Oxon Hill on April 19 (Walbeck), and Bethel WMA hosted 3 on April 20 and 2 on April 21 (Griffith). Others were seen at Centennial on May 3 (Farrell), and over the Patuxent River in southeastern Howard County on May 11 (Osenton). A nice sighting of a **Least Bittern** was also made in Howard County at Routes 29 and 108 on May 20 (Richard Crook). From one to three **Great Blue Herons** were seen from April 9 onward in Cecil County at Meadow Park (various observers), and 5 **Great Blue** nests were found at the Severn Run Natural Environmental Area on May 25 (Walbeck). **Great Egrets** included one off I-95 in Harford County on March 20 (Webb), 5 at Assateague on April 3 (Reese), and 1 at Sand Flat Road, Garrett County on April 7 (Skipper). Interesting **Snowy Egrets** were 1 on April 4 at Brantwood, Cecil County (Dylan Griffith), 5 at St. Michaels on April 10 and 5 at Stevensville on April 12 (Reese), and 1 at Centennial on May 2 (Solems). An adult **Little Blue Heron** was at Lake Elkhorn on April 10 (Solem), 5 were at St. Michaels on May 1 (Reese), and an immature was in DC on May 15 (Dobbins). Sean McCandless observed a **Tricolored Heron** flying low over Delancey Road on May 7 for only the second Cecil County record. **Cattle Egrets** were noted in Howard County



with 2 in a pasture on April 20 at Sand Hill Road (Stirrat), and 1 at Fulton on April 28 (Farrell). An amazing 400 Cattle Egrets were tallied on April 28 along Williams Road, Cecil County south of Elkton (Griffith), and 1 was at Tanyard on April 23 (Engle). **Black-crowned Night-Herons** were present at Meadow Park from May 23 to May 28 (Griffith), and an adult **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Centennial on May 3 (Chestem). Also in Howard County, a first-spring Yellow-crowned was at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Lab from May 20-22 (Magnusson); another was at the Aquatic Gardens in DC on May 22 (Dobbins). **Glossy Ibises** included 1 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on April 5 (Webb) and 5 there on April 9 (Johnson), 5 along Locust Point Road, Cecil County on April 17 (George Lutz), and a flock of 11 flying over Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on May 11 (Crooks+).

**Waterfowl.** High counts for **Tundra Swans** were 600 at Conowingo on March 16 (Blom), 745 at Bellevue on March 17 (H. Armistead+), and 350 flying north at Easton on March 25 (Reese). Twenty-six were seen migrating at Bellevue on April 13 (H. & L. Armistead), and single Tundras were at Greensboro on May 11 (Hewitt) and at Tuckahoe SP on May 12 (D. Bennett). Mary Twigg discovered 7 inland **Mute Swans** at North Branch on April 13, 68 were at Chester on April 26 (Reese), and Harry Armistead found 6 and a nest with 4 eggs at Bellevue on May 3, still present May 25. A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was again present at Aydelotte Road, Worcester County through March 24 (Dyke), and a lone blue phase **Snow Goose** was at Centennial on March 2 (Schwarz). About 5000 Snow Geese were at Greensboro on March 13 with three still present May 11 (Hewitt), and about 200 were migrating through Havre de Grace on March 17 (Wortman). The very dependable spring flock of **Brant** normally found in Ocean City was again present, with 175 there on April 27 (Mieke Mehlman, Reese). Steve Simon found 14 **Canada Geese**, including 3 young, at Loch Raven on April 26. Fifty **Wood Ducks** were near North East on April 3 (McCandless). Reports for the **Green-winged Teal** included 58 at Courthouse Point on April 6 with smaller numbers there through May 27 (Griffith), and 250 at Blackwater on April 14 (Armisteads). Two **Blue-winged Teal** were at Tanyard on March 11 (Engle), 1 was at Sycamore Landing on March 15 (Bonham), and 10 were at Blackwater on March 16 (H. Armistead+). Twenty-five **Northern Pintails** were noted at Conowingo on March 16 (Blom), and 95 Pintails and 160 **Northern Shovelers** were tallied throughout Dorchester County the same day (H. Armistead+). Another shoveler was at Belcamp on May 24 (Kirkwood). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was discovered at North Beach on April 19 (Suzanne Gubbings), and an adult male was at Blackwater on May 11 (H. Armistead+). One was reported again at Deal Island WMA on March 10-11 (Dyke+). Three male **Canvasbacks** were still in Dorchester County on May 11 (H. Armistead+). **Ring-necked Ducks** included 86 at Little Meadows Lake, Grantsville on March 27 (Walbeck). There were approximately 45,000 mostly **Lesser Scaup**, with a few **Greater Scaup** mixed in, at the Gunpowder River in Harford County on March 16 (Blom). A Greater Scaup was inland at Centennial on April 7 (Wilkinson), and 3 Greaters were on the Gunpowder River on May 18 (Greg Futral). A male **Harlequin Duck** was at Ocean City on April 3 and April 27 (Reese). **Oldsquaw** included 5 at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell), 350 at Bellevue on April 5 (H. & G. Armistead), 9 at Centennial on April 14 (Kerwin+), 1 at Loch Raven on April 18 (Simon), and 2 males and 2 females, all crippled, were seen in the Choptank River on May 25 (H. & L. Armistead). **Surf Scoters** totaled 800 at Bellevue on April 5, down to 20 on May 2 (Armisteads), and a solo drake was inland at Rocky Gap SP on April 5 (Twigg). **White-winged Scoters** were 1 at Lapidum Landing, Harford County on March 30 (Wortman), 8 at Rocky Gap SP on April 5 (Twigg), and 5 at Triadelphia the same day (Farrell). A **Common Goldeneye** was at Loch Raven on April 22 and April 26 (Simon), and **Bufflehead** reports were 47 at Bellevue on April 28 and 5 at the head of the Honga River in

Dorchester County on May 4 (H. Armistead+), and 1 at Tydings Island on May 21 (Webb). Fifty-nine **Hooded Mergansers** visited Loch Raven on March 11 (Simon), and **Common Mergansers** peaked at Triadelphia with 224 on March 2 (Farrell, Solem). **Red-breasted Mergansers** included 33 in DC on March 23 (Dobbins), 80 at Triadelphia on March 24 (Farrell), and 1 at Seneca on May 15 (Bonham). Harry Armistead and party found 220 **Ruddy Ducks** in Fishing Bay, Dorchester County on May 4. A very well documented adult **Black-bellied Whistling Duck**, for both Queen Anne's and Caroline records, was discovered on May 11 at Tuckahoe SP (Peter Tango, Michele Maciorowski).

# HAWK MIGRATION AT FORT SMALLWOOD PARK, SPRING 1996

Compiled by Sue Ricciardi

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Black Vulture	2/25	5/22	152	24 on 4/12, 16 on 3/22, 15 on 3/24
Turkey Vulture	2/19	6/9	5071	403 on 3/22, 394 on 4/8
Osprey	3/9	6/7	549	80 on 4/17, 40 on 4/14
Bald Eagle	3/4	5/20	21	4 on 4/4
Northern Harrier	3/1	6/6	205	33 on 4/17, 24 on 4/12
Sharp-shinned Hawk	2/19	5/30	2731	417 on 4/12, 308 on 4/20
Cooper's Hawk	2/24	5/20	653	68 on 4/17, 60 on 4/12, 54 on 4/20
Northern Goshawk	4/8	4/20	3	1 on 4/8, 4/12, 4/20
Red-shouldered Hawk	2/19	5/13	334	43 on 3/24, 4/12
Broad-winged Hawk	3/31	6/2	782	133 on 5/18, 81 on 4/18
Red-tailed Hawk	2/19	5/19	743	112 on 4/12, 94 on 3/25
American Kestrel	2/25	5/30	1014	214 on 4/14, 90 on 4/12
Merlin	4/4	5/10	42	9 on 4/20, 8 on 4/11
Peregrine Falcon	4/4	5/10	8	1 on 8 different days
Total	2/19	6/9	12,383	1055 on 4/12, 740 on 4/17, 679 on 4/20
(76 days, 397.7 hours)				

*Diurnal Raptors.* Rick Blom counted 150 **Turkey Vultures** at Conowingo on March 16, and early **Ospreys** included 1 at Point Lookout on March 2 (Nistico), 1 at Stevensville on March 3 (Mike Nash), 1 at Piney Point, Harford County on March 4 (Boling), 2 at Federalsburg on March 5 (Scudder), and 1 at Triadelphia on March 14 (Wilkinson). Blackwater hosted 38 **Bald Eagles** on March 16 (H. Armistead+), and a **Northern Harrier** was noted at Wye Mills on May 13 (Reese). Griffith and Perkins reported a **Northern Goshawk** near Elkton on April 4. **Broad-winged Hawks** were ushered in with 7 at Centennial on March 30 (Zeichner, Chestem), and 1 at Street on April 1 (Bowers). A **Rough-legged Hawk** was at the Transquaking River Bridge and 2 were at Elliot Island in Dorchester County on March 16 (H. Armistead+). **Golden Eagles** were at Blackwater again with an immature on March 16 and another there on April 14 (Armisteads+). A **Merlin** was noted over Elkton on April 24 (McCandless), and a late one was south of Ellicott City on May 11 (Stanton). **Peregrine Falcons** included 2 near Elkton on April 4 (Griffith, Perkins), and another seen twice at Lake Elkhorn on April 7 and April 12 (Wilkinson).

*Wild Turkey, Rails, Common Moorhens, American Coot.* A **Wild Turkey** was spotted on Red Point Road, Cecil County on May 9 (Argo), and a **Black Rail** was heard calling at Bethel WMA on April 19 (Marcia Whitmyre), for the first Cecil County record. A **King Rail** was reported at Aberdeen Proving Ground on May 6 (Webb), and at least one **Virginia Rail** was at Bethel WMA on April 20-21. Interesting **Common Moorhens** were 1 at Tanyard on April 18 and 7 there on May 11 (Engle), 1 at Bethel WMA on April 27 and May 4 (Whitmyre, Fisher), and 1 on the Piedmont at Baldwin on April 30 (Johnson). An **American Coot** was found at Centennial until May 28 (Farrell).

*Shorebirds.* The Armisteads discovered the only **American Golden-Plover** at Blackwater on April 14, as well as 7 **Black-bellied Plovers**. Other Black-bellieds included 1 inland at Rocky Gap SP on April 14 (Twigg), 8 at Cecilton on May 2 (Griffith), 2 at Tydings Island on May 6 (Webb) with 9 there on May 31 (Blom), 1 at Chester on May 7 (Reese), and 2 at Morgantown on May 12 (Nistico). Nice counts for the **Semipalmated Plover** were 30 on May 10 and 61 on May 11 at Tanyard (Engle), and 210 with a large mixed group of shorebirds on May 11 near Elliott Island (H. Armistead+). Jan Reese found a **Killdeer** with 2 young at Easton on May 6, and 5 **American Oystercatchers** were at Hooper Island on May 4 (H. Armistead+). A **Black-necked Stilt** was at Blackwater and 2 were at Elliott Island on May 4 (H. Armistead+). Stasz noted an earlier Black-necked Stilt at North Beach on April 20, and three **American Avocets** there March 11 to March 14. Interesting **Greater Yellowlegs** included 65 at Blackwater on April 14 (Armisteads), 21 at Aberdeen Proving Ground on April 25 (Webb), and 5 at Tydings Island on May 31 (Blom). Two **Lesser Yellowlegs** also stopped at Aberdeen Proving Ground on March 21 (Webb). Harry Armistead checked off a **Willet**, for only his third property record, at Bellevue on April 28, and Rick Blom had a nice sighting of 7 **Spotted Sandpipers** at Tydings Island on May 31, the same location where 4 **Whimbrels** were notched by Dave Webb on May 20. On May 27, Harry & Liz Armistead saw 3 flocks totaling a very nice spring count of 165 Whimbrels at Bellevue. **Ruddy Turnstones** included 8 at Morgantown on May 12 (Nistico), and 1 at Tydings Island on May 20 (Webb), and again on May 31 (Blom). Tydings Island also welcomed a **Sanderling** on May 17, 2 **White-rumped Sandpipers** on May 25, and 12 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** on May 31 (Blom). High counts for **Least Sandpipers** were 35 early at Blackwater on March 16 (H. Armistead+), 25 at Tydings Island on May 8 (Blom), 62 at Tanyard on May 11 (Engle), and 147 at Courthouse Point on May 14 (Griffith+). **Dunlins** included 2 at Piscataway on April 13 and 3 at Morgantown on May 12 (Nistico), and 9 at Tydings Island on May 17 (Blom). A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was noted inland at North Branch on May 1 with 2 there on May 29 (Twigg); 23 were also at Little Meadows Lake, Grantsville on May 11 and 1 was at Piney Dam Reservoir, Garrett County the same day (Walbeck+). Stasz identified a **Long-billed Dowitcher** at North Beach on April 11. Highs for **Common Snipe** were 32 on March 11 at Tanyard (Engle), 54 at UMCf on April 6 (David Holmes+), and 30 at Piscataway on April 13 (Nistico). Dave Webb listed 8 **American Woodcocks** at Aberdeen Proving Ground on March 21.

*Gulls, Terns.* Two **Laughing Gulls** turned up at Tanyard on March 20 (Engle), 65 were at Easton on March 26 (Reese), and 1 was sorted out at Alpha Ridge Park in Howard County on May 5 (Stirrat). An adult **Franklin's Gull** was reported near Scotland on April 20 (Patty Craig), an adult **Little Gull** at Hains Point on April 5 (Janni), and a **Black-headed Gull** at Ocean City on March 21 (Dyke). **Bonaparte's Gulls** included 68 at Blackwater on April 14 (Armisteads), 38 at Loch Raven on April 18 (Simon), 12 at Morgantown on May 12 (Nistico), and 1 at Tydings

Island on May 25 (Blom). Highs for **Ring-billed Gulls** were 8000 at Conowingo on March 16 (Blom), about 800 on May 3 at Aberdeen Proving Ground (Webb), and about 1000 at Centreville on May 9 and over 2000 at Kings Town on May 14 (Reese). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** included an adult at Triadelphia on April 5 (Farrell, Coskren), a first-summer bird at Tydings Island on May 8 with 2 Lessers at Tydings Island on May 17 (Blom). A **Great Black-backed Gull** was checked off at Wilde Lake on April 6 (Newmans). Bill Dobbins found 6 **Caspian Terns** in DC on April 4. Fulton Pond in Howard County proved a great place for Caspians this season with 3 there on April 6 (Wilkinson), and 23 there on April 9 (Solem). Others were 22 at reliable Blackwater on April 14 (Armisteads), 44 at Tydings Island on May 8 (Blom), and 17 on a pier at Charlestown on May 15 (Griffith). **Royal Terns** noted were 4 at Tanyard on April 30 (Engle), and 3 at Hooper Island and 17 at Elliott Island on May 11 (H. Armistead+). A **Common Tern** was found at Tydings Island on May 25 (Blom), and **Forster's Terns** included an early one at Leonardtown Wharf on March 2 (Nistico), 3 at Blackwater on March 16 (H. Armistead+), 1 at St. Michaels on March 31 (Reese), 1 at Rocky Gap on April 14 (Twigg), and 2 at Mariner Point Park, Harford County on April 20 (Ziolkowski). An early **Least Tern** was at North Beach on April 18 (Stasz), 3 were at Blackwater on April 27 (H. Armistead+), and 4 were at Tanyard on May 1 with 7 there on May 10 (Engle). Four **Black Terns** visited Tydings Island on May 8 (Blom); one was at North Branch on May 29 (Twigg).

*Parakeets, Cuckoos, Owls, Nighthawks, Swifts, Hummingbirds.* A **Monk Parakeet** was reported at Hains Point on May 20 (Dobbins). **Black-billed Cuckoo** was listed at Centennial on April 27 (Chestem, Zeichner). George and Harry Armistead found a dead **Long-eared Owl** at Routes 290 & 301 in Queen Anne's County on April 6. Solo **Short-eared Owls** were reported at Bradenbaugh Flats, Harford County on March 29 (Kirkwood), flying over Dundalk on April 29 (Wilkinson), and at Fort Smallwood on April 18 and April 20 (Ricciardi). Six Short-eareds were at Elliott Island on March 16 (H. Armistead, Simone Jenion). A **Northern Saw-whet Owl** was reported at Cool Spring, Harford County from March 22 to April 8 (Linda MacNeill). Thirty-one migrating **Common Nighthawks** flew over Peter Osenton's house in southeastern Howard County on May 18. A **Chimney Swift** in a hurry was noted at Bellevue on April 5 (H. & G. Armistead); 5 were at Wilde Lake on April 16 (Zeichner). **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** began with 1 at an Elk Neck feeder on April 6 (George Frye), and another on April 18 at Federalsburg (S. Meredith).

*Flycatchers, Swallows, Nuthatches.* A cooperative **Olive-sided Flycatcher** remained at Rock Creek Park from May 16 to May 18 (Dobbins), and an **Eastern Wood-Pewee** was checked off a little early on April 22 at Martinak SP (Nuttle). Gary Griffith reported a **Yellow-bellied Flycatcher** at Susquehanna SP on May 16, and two **Alder Flycatchers** were calling at Schooley Mill on May 18 (Farrell, Solem, Magnusson). Ethel Engle found an **Eastern Kingbird** at Tanyard on April 16. The first **Tree Swallows** were welcomed with 5 at King's Creek, Harford County on March 5 (Soubie), and arrivals at Hughes Hollow on March 15 (Bonham), and Lake Elkhorn on March 16 (D. Ecker). Later higher counts were over 200 at McCagh's Pond near Cumberland on April 5 (Twigg), 400 at Blackwater on April 14 (Armisteads), and 600 at Courthouse Point on May 14 (Griffith). **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** began early with 1 at Lilypons on March 16 (Janni), 1 at Fort Smallwood on March 20 (Ricciardi), and 4 at Lake Elkhorn on March 28 (Wilkinson). George and Harry Armistead noted an early **Bank Swallow** at Bellevue on April 5. On May 8, Connie Skipper located 7 **Cliff Swallow** mud nests under a bridge at Deep Creek Lake, and Harry Armistead spotted a Cliff Swallow at Bellevue on May 12 for his sixth property record. Twelve Cliff Swallows were near Kent Island on May 14

(Reese), and 2 were at Courthouse Point the same day (Griffith). Greg Smith counted 6212 Blue Jays over Fort Smallwood on May 10. Mieke Mehlman was treated to a **Red-breasted Nuthatch** in Bethesda on May 7, and Jan Reese found a **Brown-headed Nuthatch** nest with 4 eggs at St. Michaels on May 10.

*Ravens, Wrens, Kinglets, Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits.* A **Common Raven** at Upper Marlboro on April 28 (Stasz), and another at McKeldin, Carroll County the same day (Ringler+) were unusual at these sites. Reports for **Carolina Wrens** were low, reflecting the harsh winter. Jo Solem reported a lingering **Winter Wren** at Eden Brook until May 10, and reports for the hard-to-find **Sedge Wren** were 2 heard at Elliott Island on May 4 (Dyke), 1 at Finzel Swamp on May 11 (Walbeck, Jim Fregonara), and 1 near Accident on May 31 (Skipper). Uncommon for Howard County was a **Marsh Wren** at Triadelphia on May 11 (Zucker, Ebert), and another at Gateway Business Park on May 18 (Farrell, Solem). **Golden-crowned Kinglets** of note were 100 at Fair Hill, Cecil County on April 5 (Fisher), and 40 at Bellevue on April 7 (Liz Armistead). A probable **Bicknell's Thrush** was reported at Whites Ferry on May 11 (Bonham), three **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** were reported in Howard with 1 on May 11 in the central part of the county (Mike Smith, Marcia Krishnamoorthy), 1 in eastern Columbia on May 17 (Hopewell, Wilkinson), and 1 in the southern part of the County on May 18 (Ebert). A Gray-cheeked was banded at Harford Glen on May 23 (Kirkwood). Mark Johnson found a **Swainson's Thrush** at Baldwin on April 28, and a **Hermit Thrush** was observed carrying dry grass on May 11 at Bittinger (Skipper). Two early **Wood Thrushes** were reported in Frederick County on April 12 (Wilbur Hershberger). Many birders enjoyed seeing a **Townsend's Solitaire**, near Rocks SP in Harford County from March 22 to April 13 (Deborah Bowers+), for the first Maryland record. Donald Ford found two **Gray Catbirds** at Choptank on April 15, and 30 **American Pipits** were listed at Greensboro on March 2 (Hewitt).

*Cedar Waxwings, Vireos, Warblers.* Over 200 **Cedar Waxwings** were at Allegany Community College on March 6 (Twigg). Darius Ecker counted 150 Waxwings at Lake Elkhorn on May 23. **Yellow-throated Vireos** returned on April 21 with 1 at Susquehanna SP (Eastman), and 1 at Martinak SP (Nuttle). A **Red-eyed Vireo** turned up at Martinak SP on April 21 (Nuttle); 1 was at Sycamore Landing on April 24 (Bonham). A **Brewster's Warbler** was reported in Cecil County at Belvidere on May 5 (Griffith), and a **Blue-winged Warbler** was near Deep Creek Lake on May 8 (Skipper). Single **Golden-winged Warblers** were in southern Howard County on May 2 (Ebert), and at Centennial on May 9 (Farrell). **Tennessee Warblers** began with 1 at Mariner Point Park, Harford County on April 26 (Joanna Rawlings), and an **Orange-crowned Warbler** turned up at Meadow Park on May 10 (Griffith). Mariana Nuttle checked off a **Northern Parula** at Tuckahoe SP on April 12, and **Chestnut-sided Warblers** arrived in Howard County with 1 at Wilde Lake on April 29 (Zeichner). Two were there very late on May 31 (Newmans). Martha Chestem and Jo Solem had a nice tally of 150 **Yellow-rumped Warblers** at Lake Elkhorn on April 22. Two **Black-throated Blue Warblers** were at Susquehanna SP on April 21 (Eastman), and a **Black-throated Green Warbler** was near Oakland on April 22 (Skipper). The **Blackburnian Warbler** at Lake Elkhorn on May 30 (Ecker) was running a little late. **Prairie Warblers** began with 1 at Oxon Hill on April 19 (Walbeck), and six **Palm Warblers** were at Harford Glen on April 6 (Ziolkowski). A late Palm Warbler was at Piney Dam Reservoir, Garrett County on May 11 (Walbeck+). Twelve **Bay-breasted Warblers** were the peak at Lake Elkhorn on May 14 (Ecker). Larry Bonham notched an **American Redstart** at Sycamore Landing on April 24, and Les Eastman checked off a **Prothonotary Warbler** at Susquehanna SP on April 21. The Prothonotary at McKeldin on April 27-28 was only the fourth



Carroll County record (Blom, Ringler+). A **Northern Waterthrush** was early at Schooley Mill on April 21 (Daryl Olson), and another was at Sycamore Landing on April 24 (Bonham). Marvin Hewitt found an extremely early **Kentucky Warbler** at Greensboro on April 19. Solo **Mourning Warblers** were recorded this spring in DC on May 10 (Dobbins), along the power line near Centennial on May 13 (Ecker), and at Severn Run Natural Environmental Area, Anne Arundel County on May 25 (Dotty Mumford+). A Mourning Warbler was banded at Harford Glen on May 23 (Kirkwood).

*Tanagers, Grosbeaks, Indigo Bunting, Sparrows.* The male **Summer Tanager** at Daniels on April 28 (D. Southworth), and the female at Rockburn Branch Park on May 11 (Ott) were interesting sightings for Howard County. Two **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were reported at Street on April 20 (Bowers), and single **Blue Grosbeaks** were at Denton on April 22 (Nuttle), and at Fountain Green on April 23 (John Cupp, Sr.). **Indigo Buntings** began with 1 at Bel Air on April 14 (Soubie), and another at Concord on April 22 (Scudder). Dave Walbeck came upon two lingering **American Tree Sparrows** at New Germany Road on March 28, and conversely, Harry Armistead found 3 early **Chipping Sparrows** at Blackwater on March 16. Mary-Jo Betts reported another chippy in east Columbia on March 19. The **Clay-colored Sparrow** seen by many observers at the Oxon Hill Children's Farm April 27-28 appears to be a first for Prince George's County. Two **Vesper Sparrows** showed up at Trappe on April 7 and 18 **Savannah Sparrows** were running a little late at Claiborne on May 4 (Reese). A Savannah at Dundalk on May 20 was very late (Wilkinson). In Garrett County, two of the increasingly scarce **Henslow's Sparrows** were heard near Deer Park on May 5 (Kevin Dodge), and Connie Skipper counted 8 near McHenry on May 24, 1 at Lost Land Run on May 30, and 3 near Rock Lodge Road on May 31. Paul Nistico was pleased to hear 2 to 3 singing Henslow's in a field at the intersection of Casper and Locher Roads, just west of Hancock, Washington County, on May 19. Pleasant news, was the report of a singing Henslow's Sparrow at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center's North Tract in Anne Arundel County on May 13-14 (Peter Hanan+). A few **Fox Sparrows** lingered; Hank Stanton had 13 under his feeders near Ellicott City on March 9. **Lincoln's Sparrows** were right on time, with one at Browns Bridge on May 4 (Southworths). A nice count of 7 Lincoln's was made May 18 at Schooley Mill (Magnusson), and 4 the same day were found there in a different area (Farrell, Solem). The **Dark-eyed Junco** at St. Michaels on May 10 was pretty late (Reese).

*Blackbirds, Orioles, Finches.* In Howard County the McClures listed 18 **Bobolinks** at UMCF on April 27, Bonnie Ott tallied 65 **Rusty Blackbirds** at Gwynn Acres Path on April 10, and Marty Chestem and Helen Zeichner checked off 30 Rusties on May 6 in west Columbia. Harry Armistead observed 131 **Common Grackles** coming to roost at Bellevue on May 2, and Mariana Nuttle found a returning **Baltimore Oriole** at Denton on April 21. Bill McIntosh reported 16 **Purple Finches** at a Churchville feeder on April 22. Near Oakland were 5 **Common Redpolls** on March 8 with one there March 20 (Skipper), and another was at Bryans Road, Charles County from March 21-24 (Nistico). A nice total of 66 **Evening Grosbeaks** was near Oakland on March 4 (Skipper), and 2 late birds were at a feeder in Bel Air on May 14 (Mary Procell).

## ANNUAL REPORTS OF MOS CHAPTERS

### ALLEGANY COUNTY CHAPTER

Our chapter celebrated its 50th birthday! The year began with the annual picnic at Carey Run Sanctuary. September field trips to Dolly Sods (just a few days after hurricane Fran!) and Dan's Rock preceded the Fall Bird Count (coordinated by Ray Kiddy). Other fall trips were to Hawk Mountain, PA; Town Hill, where Jim Paulus continues our own local hawk count; and Shawnee State Park, PA for waterfowl. After Christmas and Mid-winter Bird Counts, spring field trips included the popular fossil hunt led by R.W. Trigg, Garrett County ponds, Bluebell Farm for wild flowers, several early morning walks on the C&O Canal, and a trip to the Powdermill Banding Station in Rector, PA and the National Aviary in Pittsburgh. Members also participated in the May Count. A number of club members and other MOS members generously helped with the annual Carey Run clean-up in April. A sundial is being put up on the property in memory of Daniel Folk, and Charlotte Folk was also honored with a gift for her years of service to the sanctuary. Bill Devlin continues to monitor the bluebird boxes at Carey Run, which also now has a resident beaver.

Our annual banquet was held on October 26 at the Cumberland Holiday Inn. It was very well attended for the special celebration of our anniversary, and we honored Ken Hodgdon for his years of service to the club and community with a hand-colored print by Ken Bauer, nationally acclaimed Garrett County wildlife artist. Photos from past years were displayed, and several members shared their memories of Ken's contributions to their development as birders and naturalists. Ken still carries on this important work with his column in the *Cumberland Times-News*. We were also very pleased to have Chan and Eleanor Robbins in attendance, and Chan brought us up to date with an interesting presentation on research at Cerro San Gil, Guatemala. Gladys Faherty coordinated the Silent Auction and everyone enjoyed the table favors and door prizes collected by Charlotte Folk.

Programs were given at the Cumberland Board of Education Building on Nature Conservancy Lands of Western Maryland (Debra Barber), Natural History of Alaska (Kevin Dodge), Travels in Ecuador (Gwen Brewer), and Update on Northern Saw-whet Owl Research in Garrett County (Kevin Dodge). We look forward to a new year with more new members and the opportunity to enjoy the beauty and birds of western Maryland. As outgoing president, I thank my fellow club members and officers (Gladys Faherty, Charlotte Folk, and Kevin Boyle) for a very enjoyable term!

*Gwen Brewer, President*

### BALTIMORE BIRD CLUB

This past year the Baltimore Bird Club remained committed to providing education about birds and the environment to its members and the public. Lectures were given the second Tuesday of each month. Topics were timely and presentations were excellent. The Mansion at Cylburn Arboretum was full to capacity when Ben Poscover gave his lecture on Horseshoe Crabs and Shorebird Migration in May. Lectures, which are planned one year in advance, would not be possible without the dedication of the Lecture Committee led by Debbie Terry.

Field trips are the bread and butter of the Club. Thanks go to all leaders who came out rain or shine to lead all who would follow. Thanks to Joe Lewandowski, the field trip schedule can now be found in the Outdoor Journal Section of the *Baltimore Sun*. The Baltimore City/County Site Guide to Birdwatching is also near completion.

To encourage young naturalists in birdwatching, money from the Etta Wedge Fund was used to support a team from Western Vo-Tech in the Envirothon competition. Subscriptions to *Audubon Adventures* were sent to Tench Tilghman Elementary, Collington, Edgcombe Circle Elementary, Lakeland Elementary, Dr. Bernard Harris Sr. Elementary, and George Street Elementary Schools. As usual, students from many schools visited Cylburn on field trips led by Baltimore Bird Club volunteers. Patsy Perlman and Joy Wheeler, among others, led many of the field trips.

To further conservation efforts, a substantial amount from the Martin Fund was donated to aid in the purchase of the Seton Belt Home Farm from St. Barnabas Episcopal Church in Prince George's County.

With the passing of the year, several members who have supported the Club for a long time are passing the responsibilities to others. Many thanks must go to Annette Drummond, Scholarship Representative, and Dot Clark, Corresponding Secretary.

*Sukon Kanchanaraksa, President*

## CARROLL COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Carroll County Bird Club's 1996-1997 season was busy and fun. Our eight monthly meetings at Carroll Community College featured speakers who made us wistful for the Rare Birds of Maryland (Mark Hoffman) and taught us about Saw-whet Owls (David Brinker) and Sora Rails (Greg Kearns). Other speakers took us to more exotic places; Dave Harvey took us on a South African safari, and Hank Kaestner on his birding side trips during overseas vanilla-buying trips. Two speakers showed us bird-related hobbies: Bernice Culver demonstrated the intricate art of bird carving, and Art Kennell showed beautiful slides taken from his backyard blind. Our final meeting diverges from birding to take a look at Carroll County "herps" with Frank Groves, retired curator of reptiles at the Baltimore Zoo.

Club volunteers (Dave Harvey, Mark Hoffman, Bill Kulp, Jr., Bob Ringler, Jerry and Laura Tarbell) led both planned and spontaneous field trips to Carroll County and Southern Pennsylvania hot spots as well as more distant trips to view raptor migration (Town Hill and Wagonner's Gap) and winter congregations (Conowingo Dam and the Eastern Shore). Other special field trips included Columbus Day Weekend at Irish Grove Sanctuary with a day on Smith Island, President's Day Weekend at the Beach, and Jug Bay for Soras and nesting Great Blue Herons with the irrepressible Greg Kearns. Many members attended the Annual MOS Convention in Ocean City. A June trip to Maine featuring Atlantic Puffins and Spruce Grouse will ice the cake for two cabins-full of Carroll's birders.

Community outreach efforts included landscape planting, assisting employees and visitors, and leading many nature and bird walks sponsored by Piney Run Park, Bear Branch, and the new Manchester Nature Centers; work on the bluebird trail and streamside planting at Morgan Run Environmental Area; and special training by DNR in how to create backyard wildlife habitats. Several members participated in the third annual fall count, the winter count, and May bird counts. Members represented the club's interests by attending community planning meetings and speaking out to legislators on local, state, and federal legislation related to environmental issues.

Many friendships have been found and strengthened by shared fun at social events. Post bird count tallies featuring home-cooked meals at members' homes are a fine reward after a long day outdoors. Our annual January Holiday party was again hosted by Sue and Splinter Yingling with great food and much hilarity. Our summer picnic is planned for a beautiful June afternoon, hosted by Doris and Bill Kulp, Jr. with plenty of great food, high spirits, horse drawn buggy rides, lawn sports, and the cheery chirp of nesting Purple Martins. With just under 40 members, our club is fairly small. Thanking all the volunteers who made club events so successful would really end up being about equal to our membership list! Special thanks to our past presidents (Bob Ringler, Bill Kulp, Jr., and Melinda Byrd) and 1996-1997 officers (V.P. Laura Tarbell, Treas. Barbara Gaffney, Sec'y. Amy Hoffman, State Dir. Roxann Yeager) for advice and moral support as well as jobs well done.

*Maureen Harvey, President*

## **FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER**

Our chapter had another wonderful year of programs and outings. Starting our nine monthly programs was Bob Ringler with a fascinating presentation on "Shorebirds in Maryland — When and Where." Wilbur Hershberger presented a multimedia program on "Natural Sounds Recording." Our annual Christmas dinner was a real hit with a presentation by Don Messersmith on "Birds of Europe." Stauffer Miller returned from Massachusetts to share his slides of several trips to exotic locations such as Hawaii, the Galapagos, and others. Bob Johnsson finished the year with a wonderful program on "The C&O Canal — An Overview." The other programs were excellent and well attended. We thank all the speakers who shared their time and talents with us this year.

We had eight field trips and three organized counts. A few field trips took us to other counties in the state, but most were within Frederick County. Spring migrants were behind schedule on an April 26 field trip to the C&O canal at Lander, but the sight of two adult Caspian Terns flying up the Potomac, after listening to the carols of a Northern Waterthrush, offset any disappointment. Counts conducted were the Frederick County Fall Census, the Catocin Christmas Count, the Frederick County May Count, and for the first time we are going to try a Barn Owl census in the county during the end of May.

The annual club picnic is scheduled for June 5 at Pinecliff Park. We hope to see the Red-shouldered Hawks again this year and to listen to the serenade of the Baltimore Oriole that sings beside the pavilion.

And finally, we are in the process of developing a club patch featuring a Loggerhead Shrike. It will hopefully be available in the fall.

*Wilbur L. Hershberger, President*

## HARFORD COUNTY BIRD CLUB

The Harford Chapter started its 48th year with our annual picnic at Rocks 4-H Camp. An excellent crowd attended from young children to seniors. The weather was good, and despite an initial slow start, our after-dinner birdwalk yielded a plethora of warblers near its end. Again, many thanks to Tom Congersky and all who contributed in preparing the excellent fare.

Our club continues to grow and work through our growing community. We set up our display and attended the Grand Opening of the Anita Leight Estuary Center. This Center is the headquarters of the Chesapeake National Estuarine Research Reserve located on the Otter Creek Component. We had a great time taking in the beautiful weather on their outdoor deck and spoke with many prospective new members. The Center's Naturalist, Heather Helm, has initiated an enthusiastic program in which HBC will participate as much as possible. We are planning field trips there, including a birdwatching canoe trip, and holding our first summer meeting at this facility in July. In addition, the Center has become the predominant home for our display which includes our newsletter, local checklists, and membership applications.

Our November meeting featured a presentation by Don Messersmith entitled "Birds of Australia"; Dr. Messersmith has traveled extensively over the world including several trips to Australia. An Amateur Slide Show Evening highlighted our January meeting; some of our members shared their best photos and birdwatching memories. At our March meeting, members Dennis and Jean Kirkwood presented "The Natural History of Belize"; they presented the best of their trip of last year and prospects for the next trip they are leading this July. Our May meeting we backed up to April (because of the State Convention) and was hosted by a talk of "Maryland Shorebirds: Where and When" by Bob Ringler.

At our April meeting we elected a new president, Larry Fry. Larry has a great deal of experience in public service, serving as a past MOS State Treasurer and assisting past president and wife Jean when she served two terms recently. Larry will accept the gavel at our summer meeting in July. Our other officers agreed to continue in office for another term.

This year continued to astound us with unusual bird sightings. Our Christmas Count graced us with a Northern Parula, Indigo Bunting, Long-eared Owl, and a Vesper Sparrow. However, the fog and rainy weather stifled the usual diversity of waterfowl to which we are accustomed. Moreover, a very accommodating Black-legged Kittiwake was found usually at the base of Conowingo Dam; for nearly two months you could almost set your watch by its arrival.

At our annual awards presentation, our treasurer Joyce Gorsuch received the Distinguished Service Award in recognition of her past efforts. David Webb received the county Lister of the Year Award with 192 species seen; Deborah Bowers received the Rookie of the Year Award, and Bird of the Year Award for the Townsend's Solitaire she described from her yard. Again we



participated with our display at the Havre de Grace Earth Day celebration at the marina on April 19. Although the weather was blustery, we had the cover of a tent and had fun talking to many interested in our club, including many other exhibitors.

Our field trips continue to be well attended by locals as well as by others in MOS. Although we continue to schedule our local favorite trips, our field trip committee continues to find new areas to explore for birds. Trips to the Gunpowder Peninsula, searching for Harford's shorebirds, and an evening excursion on the skipjack the Martha Lewis were some new successful trips of this year. Other trips included joint trip with the Cecil Chapter, Nighthawk Watches atop the Bel Air Municipal Garage, and whips-and-owls excursions in the evening ending with a social at the Frys'.

This is my last year as president and I will sincerely miss it. The birth of our second son and the growing attentiveness of our 3-year-old provided the incentive for me to give up this office and spend more time at home. What makes this club so enjoyable is the attitude of its members. Although I had a lot to learn in the art of being president, I couldn't have done it if not for the help of the officers. Ones of special recognition are: Les Eastman (Editor), David Webb (Field Trip Chairman), Randy Robertson (Vice President), Mary Procell (Recording Secretary), Carole Vangrin (Corresponding Secretary), Joyce Gorsuch (Treasurer), Bobbie Siebens (Dinner Reservations), David Ziolkowski (State Education Representative), Russ Kovach (State Sanctuary Representative), and our State Directors, Tom Congersky, John Nack, and Joe Vangrin. Thanks to all of you for your assistance.

*Mark S. Johnson, President*

## HOWARD COUNTY CHAPTER

As our chapter closes its twenty-fourth year we note that the continuation of our activities would not be possible without the love of birding and the dedication to the local chapter and the state MOS by so many in our club.

Jane Geuder, program chair, arranged a nice mix of eight programs, both locally focused and exotic locales, opening with Lisa Petit's "Life and Times of the Golden Swamp Warbler" in September followed by "Wild Turkeys in Maryland" by Steve Bitner. Kathy Klimkiewicz presented "Breeding Bird Atlas Findings"; Glenn Therres talked about "The Bald Eagle's Status in Maryland"; "Birding Adventures of a Spice Buyer" by Hank Kaestner; "Sights and Sounds of Early Migration" by David Holmes; "Butterflies for Birders" by Richard Smith; and closing with "Safari to Kruger National Park, South Africa" by Dave Harvey. All program meetings were enhanced by Marty Chestem's displays of up-to-date or unusual bird news, newspaper/magazine articles and pictures of an educational tidbit for our members' edification, our "free" table for members to recycle pamphlets, and our very popular Club Book Store managed by Ann Marie Raterman.

Bonnie Ott, field trip chairman, arranged Beginners Walks, Butterfly Walks, Weekday Walks, Sparrow Searches, Winter Wonderland Walks, our annual Sunday Walks in November and April, for a total of 39 including a Mushroom Meander and a Dragonfly Walk coming up in June and August.

Many members continued their field work with the third annual Fall Count coordinated by Mike McClure and Chuck Stirrat; the Triadelphia Christmas Count; the Mid-winter Count with coordinators David Holmes and Jo Solem; and May Count with coordinator Paul Zucker. Seasonal records were compiled by Jo Solem from data supplied by dozens, and the eighteenth Howard County Annual List was compiled by Jane Farrell.

Eileen Clegg coordinated two seed sales for the eighteenth year!

Tom Strikwerda and Marty Chestem organized the mailing of *Maryland Birdlife* for MOS.

Our donations this year went to the Western Shore Conservancy for the stabilization of the Belt Woods; The Nature Conservancy of Maryland and DC to ensure the continuation of the Little Patuxent Oxbow Sanctuary in Laurel, MD; and a grant to the Howard County Envirothon. Bob Solem, our conservation chair, kept us informed in each issue of our newsletter, *The Goldfinch*, of Darius Ecker in continuing *The Electronic Goldfinch*, their organizing of volunteers to man our popular annual exhibit at the Howard County Fair, and Elayne Metter ever on the lookout for publications to carry the announcements of our field trips and activities have raised our profile locally and brought new members to our walks, our programs, and even our counts. Way to go, Gang! There's a lot of interest out there!

Maud Banks, President

## KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

Our chapter remains a small group with the preponderance of members in the senior citizen class. This does not dampen enthusiasm for birding, but does mean that it is difficult to find individuals willing to take on administrative duties.

Highlights of our meeting speakers included Mary Ellen Dore who spoke in September of her experience at one of the Audubon summer workshops in Maine. She was the recipient of our Gibson-Mendinhall scholarship fund. This summer Christopher Pupke, Outdoor Education Coordinator at Pickering Creek in Easton, will attend the workshop as a scholarship recipient. We look forward to his report. Another highlight was a description of the best places to find various birds in Kent County, "Where to See What," given by Judge Floyd Parks, who certainly knows his territory. Deviating from previous years' schedules, we did not hold feeder watches in January and February, instead opting for indoor-outdoor field trips to nearby spots such as Tuckahoe State Park in Queen Anne's County.

In another innovation, we scheduled our monthly field trips for the same time each month — the third Saturday — and sent each member a description of the trip when we mailed our program calendars. This was well received. To date our most interesting trips have been to Cape Henlopen State Park, Lewes, DE, and Furnace Town and Nassawango Cypress Swamp in Worcester County, MD.

We participated in two community events: the Chestertown Wildlife Exhibition and Sale in October, and the Centreville Middle School's Earth Day in April.

Many of our members lent their expertise to the birding community. For the third year in a row, Margaret Blair designed the winning pin for the MOS annual conference. Paul Tolson continued as compiler of our Christmas Bird Count and Judge Floyd Parks as compiler of the spring count. Dolly Minis, a well known biologist who has been studying and recording Tundra Swans, continued her work at Eastern Neck Wildlife Refuge in Rock Hall. During the year she led bird walks and discussions at the refuge. Howard McIntyre also contributed many volunteer hours to the refuge. Vernon Stotts was instrumental in securing a variety of speakers for our programs. Stephen Hitchner continued his monitoring of bluebird trails. Dr. Henry Sears set aside some of his farmland for a banding operation, and James Gruber, William Snyder, and others have been banding on a regular basis.

Martha Webster continued to get us good publicity in the local newspaper. Kim Bower, owner of the Wild Bird Company, included all our activities in her newsletters. In spite of the wealth of information aimed at the public, we have not acquired new members.

In June we will hold our annual picnic at a spot new for us, Turner's Creek Pavilion, on the beautiful Sassafras River. Perhaps by then we will have been able to find a slate of officers for 1997-1998.

*Clara Ann Simmons, President*

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY CHAPTER

The Montgomery Chapter's 300-plus members enjoyed an agenda full of business and pleasure. Our newsletter, *The Chat*, edited by Janet Millenson, helped keep everyone up to date, as did our home page, run by Kathy Neugebauer.

A schedule of more than 50 trips, organized by Linda Friedland, got underway in September with the "President's Day Walk," followed by picnic lunch, at Little Bennett Park. In addition to birding local spots in the fall, the chapter traveled to Cape May and hawk-watched at Snicker's Gap and Washington Monument State Park.

Speakers at our fall monthly meetings, scheduled by David and Helen Gray, included Glenn Therres of Maryland DNR and Greg Kearns reporting on Sora Rail research at Jug Bay, as well as Chapter members Daphne Gemmill ("Birding Madagascar, Reunion, and Mauritius") and Mark Garland ("Please Don't Step on the Boobies and Iguanas" [Galapagos]). The November meeting was enlivened by a highly successful raffle and bake sale arranged by Sybil Williams.

The Chapter continued to sponsor the Seneca Christmas Count. MCC members also coordinate the DC, Triadelphia, and Sugarloaf Counts, and many members take part in more than one count.

A highlight of winter field trips was the annual excursion to the Outer Banks, facilitated by members Pat and Neal Moore, who now live in North Carolina. Despite severe cold, the dozen travelers reported enthusiastically about the 91 species they tallied. After a snow-out of the January meeting, members were more than psyched for February's world (?) premiere of "Watching Warblers," a video produced and presented by Mike Male and Judy Fieth.

The Chapter's Annual Social was held in March at a Chinese restaurant in Rockville. About 100 members attended, and a highlight, as usual, was the members' slide show. Luther Goldman, former manager of the Laguna Atascosa and Santa Ana NWRs, photographer, tour leader, and tireless birder, was our guest of honor.

Spring highlights included talks on "Hearing and Vocalization in Birds" by Dr. Robert Dooling, and "Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains" by the man who wrote the book, Marcus Simpson. In addition to participating in the May Count, the chapter sponsored a "bird pedal" on bikes along the Capital Crescent Trail and outings to Bombay Hook Refuge and West Virginia.

This year the Chapter received a \$10,000 bequest from the estate of charter member Sarah Sugar Baker; a Gifts Committee chaired by Don Mersersmith is evaluating potential disposition of the gift. The chapter also "adopted" Green Balkans, an environmental/conservation organization in Bulgaria, where member Jim Day is currently working in the Peace Corps. The Club's slide show on Backyard Birds in Maryland was shown to two dozen groups, primarily students and scouts.

*Lydia Schindler, President*

### PATUXENT BIRD CLUB

The Patuxent Chapter held its regular monthly meetings at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center Bioscience Building on the fourth Tuesday of each month from September to November and January to May. The year proved to be busy, productive, and rewarding.

Dr. Robert Trever presented an illustrated talk on his *Snake River Travels*, Dr. Donald Messersmith led the audience on a slide-illustrated tour of selected *Birding Hot Spots in Western Europe*, William S. Clark gave the group some excellent pointers on *Raptor Field Identification: State of the Art and Recent Advances*, David Holmes described the results of his long-term bird population studies on *Appledore Island*, members and guests viewed a commercial videotape on *Birding Hot Spots in Texas* produced by Karis and Don Herriott, Gregg Kearns entertained us with an *Update on Rail Research at Patuxent River Park* and some excellent video footage of baby Wood Ducks taking the long first step from the nest, and Chris Loffredo showed slides on *Behavioral Studies of Australian Bowerbirds*. May 27 was our traditional Members' Night, highlighted by slides taken by our members during their birding forays.

Other activities included Christmas and May Bird Counts and participation in the MOS annual conference at Ocean City. Our Conservation Committee, chaired by Eleanor Robbins, carried out an active advocacy role on conservation issues.

*Tom Loomis, President*

### WASHINGTON COUNTY ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Washington County Chapter held its monthly meetings at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center on Mt. Aetna Road on the fourth Tuesday of the month. Guest speakers at the meetings presented

the following programs: Goshawks by Dave Brinker, 300 Years of Bird Art by Janet Millenson, Banding at Dolly Sods by Bon Dean, Scales and Tails by Angie Olah of Maryland Park Service, Australia by Beth Zang, Habitat Protection with the Maryland Environmental Trust by Barbara Levin, and Spring Warblers by Dr. Oberman. During the summer months our monthly meetings will be replaced with picnics.

During the past year our Chapter went on field trips to Gambrill State Park, the irrigation pond on Harney Road, Washington Monument State Park, Fort Frederick State Park, Fountain Rock Nature Center, Piney Run Park, Gettysburg, Lily Pons, Antietam, Indian Spring WMA, and Shenandoah National Park.

Thirty-four observers (mostly Washington County members) participated in the Washington County Christmas Count, and twenty-six observers (mostly members) participated in the May Count. Other activities included the fall and spring hawk counts at Washington Monument State Park and the Carey Run Sanctuary work day. One member (Steve Huy) set up a Saw-whet Owl banding station on Lamb's Knoll and banded 41 Saw-whets and a Barred Owl last fall. Steve intends to continue his banding this fall.

At the end of last year's report I noted that one of our long time members, Cam Lewis, had passed away. I am sad to report now that his wife, Norma Lewis, died just a few months later. They were both very active in our chapter as well as in statewide activities of MOS. Their contributions to the Society and to our lives will be greatly missed.

*Dave Weesner, President*

## E-MAIL ADDRESSES OF OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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## MOS EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1996/97

The most notable change this year in the Executive Secretary's job has been the increase in number of calls made to the MOS 800 number from about one per week to about two a day. In addition to messages about Society business, we receive calls about bird identification, requests for help with school projects and for information on a wide range of (sometimes marginally) bird related topics. I would like to thank the many MOS Board members who have helped with these calls, as well as whoever compiled the "Backyard Birding" site on the internet.

Sales of the new Yellowbook, which became available just before the last convention, have been steady. Pricing has been set at \$2.00 each, with a special price of \$1.50 each for bulk orders from MOS chapters.

Pricing for the one fold-out page checklist ("Field Checklist of Maryland & D.C. Birds") is \$25.00 per hundred, with a special chapter order price of \$15.00 per hundred. Individuals may order 10 checklists for \$3.00. The current edition of the checklist is 10 years old. I will consult with the Publications Committee about a new edition before ordering a new printing.

The MOS Board meetings for the coming year have been scheduled for June 14, 1997, September 6, 1997, December 6, 1997, and March 18, 1998. The Montgomery County chapter has volunteered to host the December meeting; locations are still being sought for the rest.

As soon as I have complete information on the new chapter officers and state representatives I will compile a new Board list and send a copy, along with the MOS Bylaws and Operating Procedures, to the new Board members.

*Will Tress, Executive Secretary*

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

### ATLAS COMMITTEE

In January 1997 the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia* was published after 15 years of hard work and anxious waiting. I want to thank Chandler S. Robbins, Senior Editor, Eirik A. T. Blom, Project Coordinator, and the Editorial Board consisting of John Cullom, Jane H. Farrell, Emily D. Joyce, M. Kathleen Klimkiewicz, D. Ann Rasberry, Robert F. Ringler, Joanne K. Solem, and Glenn D. Therres. I also thank the Maryland Ornithological Society, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Pittsburgh Press for their support and assistance. Lastly, I thank all the members of MOS who worked so hard on this project, all those individuals and organizations who donated money and services to the project, and especially the Chesapeake Bay Trust and the Maryland DNR Tidewater Administration for their most generous grants.

*John G. Malcolm, Chairman*

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

The 52nd annual conference of the Maryland Ornithological Society was held in Ocean City at the Sheraton-Fontainebleau Hotel on the weekend of May 2-4, 1997. The 244 registered attendees enjoyed the program and spotted 193 species of birds on field trips. On Friday evening, Paul Lehman, editor of the American Birding Association's *Birding* magazine, spoke on "Bird Distribution and Bird Habitats of North America." MOS president Bob Rineer presided over the annual business meeting on Saturday evening, May 3.

Charlie and Gail Vaughn of Wicomico County took the lead role in organizing and coordinating the activities of the conference. Carol and Donald Broderick provided able assistance. Field trips were planned by Sam Dyke. Gene Scarpulla organized a pelagic trip that, unfortunately, had to be canceled because of adverse weather conditions. Sybil Williams coordinated a silent auction (\$1,247) and raffle (\$714). The total proceeds (\$1,961) were donated in the name of MOS to support the protection of Belt Woods in Prince George's County. Dave Brinker arranged presentations of research papers on Saturday afternoon. John Malcolm organized competition for the conference pin. This year's winner was Margaret Blair of Kent County whose design of a Common Tern aptly captured an Ocean City favorite. Scholarship winners (Dale Johnson and Rebecca Tittermary) were hosted to dinner on Saturday evening and introduced to conference attendees. Bob Rineer presented award plaques to the editorial board of the *Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*.

The society's next conference will be held at the Wisp Hotel in Garrett County on the weekend of May 15-17, 1998.

*Lou DeMouy, Chairman*

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

### EXPENDITURES FOR 1996-97 FISCAL YEAR

#### CHAPTER GRANTS

- \$200.00 Baltimore Co. Chapter MOS — Subscriptions to "Audubon Adventures" magazines for Baltimore City elementary schools
- \$200.00 Wicomico Co. Chapter MOS — Subscriptions to "Audubon Adventures" magazines for Wicomico County schools
- \$165.00 Washington Co. Chapter MOS — Ornithology slides for chapter slide program
- \$200.00 Montgomery Co. Chapter MOS — Teaching materials for Girl and Boy Scouts to earn Ornithology merit badges
- \$200.00 Howard Co. Chapter MOS — For 1997 Howard Co. Envirothon competition
- \$200.00 Frederick Co. Chapter MOS — In support of "Scales and Tales" facilities at Greenbrier State Park

- \$200.00 Harford Co. Chapter MOS — Ornithology posters and checklists for local high schools, photographic slides for MOS chapter slide show
- \$200.00 Cecil Co. Chapter MOS — Four "Birds of North America" computer programs for four county high schools
- \$200.00 Carroll Co. — Ornithology books and videos for the Piney Run Nature Center  
*\$1,765.00 Subtotal for 9 Chapter Grants*

### **SPECIAL GRANTS**

- \$215.52 Gladys Cole — Irish Grove Information Board — Aerial map and other materials
- \$157.00 Two sheets 4' x 8' Plexiglas for Irish Grove Information Board
- \$457.58 Robbins Ceremony: refreshments, invitations, rocks, etc.
- \$1,826.10 GS Images — Fiberglass nature trail sign at Patuxent
- \$594.26 Harper & Co. — 2 brass plaques
- \$300.00 Wicomico Co. Chapter MOS — Partners in Art (PIF), an elementary school ornithology information exchange program with South/Central American schools and Maryland schools
- \$1,000.00 Ann Arundel Co. Chapter MOS — Production of a "One Bird — Two Habitats" video for the "Birds and the Bay" program co-sponsored by CBT, PIF, MD State Board of Ed, Anne Arundel Bird Club, American Bird Conservancy
- \$400.00 1997 MD State Envirothon — for competition expenses  
*\$4,950.46 Subtotal for Special Projects*

\$1,765.00	9 Chapter Grants
<u>\$4,950.46</u>	<u>Special Projects</u>
\$ 6,715.46	TOTAL

*Linda Bystrak, Chairman*

## **LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

In 1995 our committee published a list of 50-year goals for MOS. Last year's report noted that a major effort had been made to address three of those items.

With the appointment this year of a Publicity Committee, another of the long-term goals is receiving attention. The Publicity Committee should provide a focus for publicizing the Society's programs, expertise, and habitat preservation. In addition, the Education Committee increasingly puts MOS's name before the public with the diverse projects it promotes and underwrites.

The publication in early 1997 of the *Atlas of Breeding Birds of Maryland and the District of Columbia*, a joint project of MOS and the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, will be a long-term testament to the wide-ranging knowledge, intensive effort, and cooperative spirit of this state's birding community. The *Atlas* and the *Field List of the Birds of Maryland*, published in 1996, are publications of which this organization's members can be justly proud. Both should be valuable publicity tools for years to come.

Joanne K. Solem, Chairman

## RECORDS COMMITTEE

(Abstracted from an 8-page "Meeting Minutes and Annual Report")

The MD/DCRC Database now contains 716 records including 234 accepted records, 106 not accepted, 136 not reviewable for various reasons, 64 currently circulating or awaiting recirculation, 175 awaiting review, and 1 withdrawn by observer.

The year is being converted to four digits in the database in anticipation of the year 2000, and the observer field is being expanded to accommodate an infinite number of observer names instead of the previous maximum of two. Currently some MD/DCRC information is hosted on the MOS web site, and access to the committee's entire database is the ultimate goal.

The secretary has retrieved the DC Records Committee files and Rob Hilton has volunteered to research them and see what is required for merging them with the MD/DCRC files.

The Committee is concerned over the increase in time it takes to circulate records, from an average of 14.5 weeks per package in 1994 to more than 20 weeks in each subsequent year. The Committee concurred that the Chairman has the authority to take needed measures to ensure timely review of records.

For purposes of the MD/DCRC Review List, to provide a landmark that can be identified on easily available maps, the western boundary of the Piedmont will be defined as the Frederick-Washington County Line.

The Committee plans to review records for all species in Stewart and Robbins (1958) that have not subsequently been reported in Maryland. Mary Gustafson will research this list of species and related documentation.

The Committee has not yet established official Maryland and DC state lists. Mark Hoffman will review the current working-version preliminary "official list" of Maryland birds and comment, and Rob Hilton will do the same for the preliminary DC list. Mark Hoffman has agreed to author the next report of MD/DCRC decisions for *Maryland Birdlife*.

The following changes were made to the Review List:

Henslow's Sparrow added to category 5E: "East of Allegany County."

Saltmarsh and Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows moved from 5D to 5C.

Bicknell's Thrush added to category 5D.

Phil Davis, Secretary

## RESEARCH COMMITTEE

At the close of fiscal year 1995/96 the MOS research grant fund contained \$3,225.30. During the 1996/97 fiscal year one research grant was awarded. John B. Churchill, a West Virginia University M.S. student, received \$2,500.00 for "Winter movements and habitat use of Northern Saw-whet Owls on Assateague Island, Maryland." This represented continuation and completion of work begun during the winter of 1995/96. Two additional proposals were received. Funding of one was deferred for reconsideration during 1997/98 and the other has been returned for possible revision and future reconsideration because it did not meet grant guidelines at its original submittal. The income during fiscal year 1996/97 from interest on the research endowment amounted to \$2,341. The balance in the MOS Research Grant Fund at the beginning of the 1997/98 fiscal year was \$3003.

The Research Committee organized the 9th annual afternoon paper session for the 1997 conference. It was particularly difficult arranging papers for the 1997 conference and only two papers were presented. Without more interest from individuals in presenting oral papers, the future of the paper session could be in jeopardy. All MOS members, professionals and amateurs alike, should encourage individuals participating in projects that increase the knowledge of Maryland bird life to present their findings at the annual conference. The annual conference is the singular opportunity for people interested in birds in Maryland to share their knowledge with others from across Maryland. Attendance at the Saturday afternoon paper session was about 30 people.

*David F. Brinker, Chairman*

## SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Highlights of the activities of the Sanctuary Committee are as follows:

An article outlining the history and present status of MOS sanctuaries was published in the March 1997 issue of *Maryland Birdlife*.

Preliminary work was begun on revision of the *Guide to the Sanctuaries*. A letter describing plans for this revision was sent to each chapter for comments. Several chapters responded with many good suggestions. It is hoped that this revision will be completed within the coming year.

Three workdays were conducted since the last annual meeting: one at Carey Run and two at Irish Grove where much worthwhile work was accomplished in maintaining the buildings and trails. The "big" maintenance jobs are done on the workdays, but there are also many "little" jobs that are done throughout the year by volunteers from the local chapters. These volunteers, giving generously of their time and talents, maintain and run our sanctuaries. Our heartfelt thanks go to all of these volunteers for the great job they are doing.

*Dotty Mumford, Chairman*



## SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

We received seventeen applications for scholarships this year. Because our endowment fund investments were successful, and because of generous donations, we were able to give nine scholarships. This was one more than last year.

This year one of our committee members, Marilyn Taylor, contacted many public schools in an effort to get more applicants. We did not get as many as we had hoped, but we did get a more diverse group. For the first time in my experience with this committee, we received applicants from Cecil, Calvert, Montgomery, Caroline, and Prince George's Counties.

The committee will undergo changes in the coming year. Three members will not be with us any longer. One is deceased, and two have resigned for health reasons.

### 1997 ORNITHOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Chandler S. Robbins Scholarship:

JULIE A. TOMITA, Animal Keeper, Baltimore Zoo

The Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship:

CHRISTOPHER B. PUPKE, Education Coordinator, Pickering Creek Environmental Center, Easton, MD

### 1997 ECOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

The Eleanor C. Robbins Scholarship:

STEPHANIE N. HARRIS, Teacher, Cecil County

The Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship:

ANDREW RISTVEY, Education Coordinator, Adkins Arboretum, Hillsboro, MD

The Helen Miller Scholarships:

DALE S. JOHNSON, High School Teacher, Montgomery County

SUE LESLIE, Teacher/Naturalist, Oregon Ridge, Baltimore County

BETH ANN STROMMEN, Environmental Planner, Baltimore City

REBECCA TITTERMARY, Teacher, Worcester Country School, Berlin, MD

M. DIANNE ANTONIELLI, Teacher, Prince George's County

Two of the scholarship winners attended the Annual Conference dinner on Saturday night.

*Isa Sieracki, Chairman*

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209

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Active Membership: \$10.00 plus chapter dues    Life: \$400.00 (4 annual installments)  
Household: \$15.00 plus chapter dues    Junior: (under 18) \$5.00 plus chapter dues  
Sustaining: \$25.00 plus chapter dues

*Cover: Adult Golden Eagle over Town Hill, MD, Nov. 23, 1996. Photo by Jim Paulus.*



## SORA AND PIED-BILLED GREBE NESTING IN KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND

F. W. FALLON

During the summer of 1996 I was engaged in a study monitoring certain restored wetlands on the Eastern Shore, a study sponsored by the USFWS and the USDA Wetlands Institute. Part of the monitoring effort involved listening for responses to taped calls of rails and grebes during evening twilight hours.

On the evening of June 11, at about sunset, I was visiting one such pond located in Kent County, MD, well inland from the Chesapeake Bay. I was surprised to hear a Sora (*Porzana carolina*) respond to the call of Virginia Rail — the expected rallid in that area. I assumed the bird must be a late migrant, perhaps injured.

On my next visit on June 24, a Sora again responded — to taped calls of Sora, King Rail, Virginia Rail, as well as to the usual response trigger, hand clapping. This time there were two birds, near one another. Still, I attributed the birds' presence to early returning migrants (perhaps failed nesters).

But on a third visit, July 3, there were again two Soras. They did not respond to taped calls as early as 80 minutes before sunset, but did so 20 minutes later. Again two distinct individuals responded, again from the same small area of the pond. Now suspicious that they might be a nesting pair I searched for a nest — unsuccessfully as it proved — but in the process came across a downy chick running across an open space just 20 feet away, and clearly visible. The sun was still up and illuminated the scene in the direction of view.

On the same evening I was further amazed to discover a Pied-billed Grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) swimming with three 2-3 day-old chicks in the same pond. This observation was confirmed by Nicole Muir, another study participant, on the same day. The presence of the Grebe was all the more surprising because it had not been heard calling on any previous visits.

According to the "Yellow Book" (Iliff, Blom, and Stasz 1996), neither species has been known to breed in Kent County. *The Atlas of Breeding Birds of Maryland* (Robbins and Blom 1997) does list a single nesting record for Pied-billed Grebe in Kent county, probably only in a single year of the 5-year Atlas history, at a point about 20 miles from the present location. Also remarkably, the pond is located at least 10 miles inland from the nearest bay or river shoreline. (The exact location is not specified further here in order to protect the privacy of the land owner.)



This pond differs from the usual high-bermed created pond. It rests in a natural depression and is bermed only along a small part of its perimeter. Open water covers 10 acres, phasing gradually into a margin of aquatic vegetation covering about another 5 acres. Traversing it in the form of an isthmus is a partially submerged hedge-row, providing islands of ground slightly above water. It was here that the Soras were located. Many other marsh birds frequented the pond between June 3 and Aug 10, including Green Heron, American Bittern, Cattle Egret, Great Egret, Mallard, and Red-winged Blackbirds (about 12 pair).

Perhaps we may expect that Soras and other rails may be found nesting on other bodies of water as small as 10 acres where conditions are favorable. Perhaps, too, there is hope that restored wetland ponds can succeed in providing suitable marsh-bird nesting habitat if effort is made to cover large enough an area with water and to duplicate a naturally-occurring shelf slope and its associated vegetation.

#### LITERATURE CITED

Iliff, M.J., Ringler, R.F., and Stasz, J.L. 1996. Field List of the Birds of Maryland, 3rd edition. Maryland Ornithological Society, Baltimore

Robbins, C.S., and E.A.T. Blom, 1997. Atlas of the Breeding Birds of Maryland and District of Columbia. U. Pittsburgh Press, Pittsburgh.

*1700 Pomona Place, Bowie MD 20716*

## RECORD GOLDEN EAGLE DAY AT TOWN HILL, ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

**JIM PAULUS**

At 3 a.m. on March 6, 1997, the predicted cold front started moving across Allegany County, generating northwesterly winds of 27 to 45 mph and dropping the temperature from 51° F. at midnight to 37° F. at 4 a.m. This front was supposed to clear out the foul weather that the area had experienced for the past five days. Counting migrating hawks had not been possible during this time because of the rain, snow, sleet, and heavy mountain fog.

I arrived at the Town Hill overlook at 8:30 a.m. in the middle of a snow squall and an extremely strong northwest wind. Looking westward, I could see some white clouds with patches of blue sky shining on Polish Mountain. By 8:45 a.m. I was getting some sunshine at the overlook, so I positioned my car where I could best view the west side of the ridge, the side that Golden Eagles (*Aquila chrysaetos*) would be using today to take advantage of the updrafts.

I did not have to wait long. Golden Eagle #1 coasted by at 8:59 a.m., seemingly unaffected by the severely strong and gusting winds. #2 went by at 9:07, #3 at 9:46. #4 at 9:49, #5 at 9:54, #6 at 10:05, #7 at 10:08, #8 at 10:52, #9 at 11:36, #10 at 11:55, #11 at 12:19 p.m.,

#12 at 2:42, and the last, #13 at 2:54 p.m. Thirteen Golden Eagles! — the most I have ever seen in one day. My previous one-day record was on November 8, 1995 when I had counted eleven from the Town Hill lookout.



*Golden Eagle #400, Town Hill, MD  
Photo by Jim Paulus, March 8, 1997*

All of the 13 Golden Eagles were adults, and all were using the same flight pattern, crossing the hotel about 300 feet west of where I was parked and about 400 feet above the treetops. All were coasting/gliding on the updrafts with wing tips pulled sharply back, not flapping, and moving along very steadily. Other hawks seen that day were Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*), Sharp-shinned Hawk (*Accipiter striatus*), and an adult Northern Goshawk (*A. gentilis*).

Turkey Vultures (*Cathartes aura*) were limited that day to flying in the east valley, out of the wind. One Turkey Vulture tried to cross over the ridge to the west side, but was hit with such a hard gust of wind that it was literally knocked out of control and blown back across the ridge, losing several feathers in the process.

In the eight years that I have been counting migrating hawks at the lookout, today had the strongest winds that I have encountered there. I quit watching at 4:30 p.m. at which time the temperature was 41° F. with a partly cloudy sky and the wind northwest between 20 and 30 mph.

The next day, March 7, was a clear day, but no raptors were seen. On March 8, however, I had a very special moment. I photographed an adult Golden Eagle over the hotel at 10:38 a.m. This sighting represents Golden Eagle #400 seen by me at the Town Hill lookout since I saw my first one there on October 16, 1990.

The peak time for the spring migration of Golden Eagles at the Town Hill lookout is the first two weeks of March.

*P. O. Box 1883, Cumberland, MD 21501-1883*

Received March 22, 1997

## BREEDING SEASON, JUNE 1 - JULY 31, 1996

DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH

It was a cool summer with above normal precipitation especially in July. Hurricane Bertha hit the region in mid-July but for some reason most of the storm-blown birds were only found as far as the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay. Low reports for species such as Carolina Wrens, Eastern Bluebirds, and Field Sparrows probably reflect the preceding harsh winter.

*Observers:* Henry Armistead, Debby Bennett, Lori Byrne, Danny Bystrak, Rick Blom, Don Broderick, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Dave Czaplak, Sam Dyke, Darius Ecker, Jeff Effinger, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Jane Farrell, Gary Griffith (reporting for Cecil County), Jim & Trish Gruber, Wilbur Hershberger, Marvin Hewitt, Steve Huy, Marshall Iliff, Simone Jenion, George Jett, Dave Kubitsky, Ellen Lawler, Mariana Nuttle, Beth Olsen, Bonnie Ott, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Danny Poet, Suzanne Probst, Jan Reese, Bob Ringler, Eugene Scarpulla, Sue Scheider, Bill Scudder, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Paul Spitzer, Jim Stasz, John Taylor, Mary Ann Todd, David Walbeck, Dave Webb, Jim Wilkinson, Levin Willey.

*Abbreviations:* DC - District of Columbia, NWR - National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS - Patuxent River Naval Air Station (St. Mary's County), SF - State Forest, SP - State Park, UMCF - University of Maryland Central Farm (Howard), WMA - Wildlife Management Area.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Adam Island (Dorchester), Alpha Ridge Park (Howard), Assateague Island (Worcester), Barren Island (Dorchester), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Bloodsworth Island (Dorchester), Courthouse Point (Cecil), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Gateway Business Park (Howard), Hart-Miller Island (Baltimore), Holland Island (Dorchester), Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary (Anne Arundel), Kings Creek (Talbot), Lake Elkhorn (Howard), Pickering Creek Environmental Center (Talbot), Pone Island (Dorchester), Rock Lodge Trust (Garrett), Spring Island (Dorchester), Tuckahoe SP (Caroline), Tydings Island (Harford).

*Loons, Grebes, Storm-Petrels, Shearwater.* A **Common Loon** was noted at Point Lookout from June 19 (Stasz) through July 23 (Craig), and one was inland at Westminster Reservoir on July 4 (Bill Kulp, Jr.) and July 20 (Ringler). Another was at Sandy Point SP on July 18 (Mike Donovan). Simone Jenion had some nice summer sightings, checking off an adult Common Loon at Ocean City on June 19, 2 there on June 29, and an adult **Pied-billed Grebe** with 4 juveniles at E. A. Vaughn WMA, rare for Worcester County, on June 1. This nesting pair produced another brood of 5 in July (Dyke). Jenion also spotted up to 5 **Wilson's-Storm Petrels** off Ocean City on June 29. Marty Cribb spotted 5 Wilson's Storm-Petrels in Chesapeake Bay in Somerset County on July 17 along with a **Greater Shearwater**, and 2 Wilson's were there on July 21 (Stasz+). Another Wilson's was spotted off Point Lookout on July 25 (Cribb). Two **Leach's Storm-Petrels** were identified at Assawoman Bay, Worcester County on July 13 (Iliff, Stasz).

*Pelicans, Cormorants.* **Brown Pelicans** were noted on a few summer surveys through various Chesapeake Bay islands with 4 at Adam Island and 5 at Holland Island on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer), 12 at Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor), and 8 at Smith Island on July 27 (Armistead). From 1 to 6 Brown Pelicans were seen at Point Lookout from June 5 through July 13 (Craig, Scheider+). Harry Armistead also reported 1 at Deal Island WMA on June 29. Sightings of **Double-crested Cormorants**, a common summer occurrence now, included 65 at Bloodsworth Island on June 7 (Armistead), 7 flyovers inland at Daniels on June 9 (Ott, Solem+), 1 at Denton on June 15 (Hewitt), 145 at Conowingo Dam on June 27 (Blom), over 200 on Barren Island on June 28 (Iliff), 45 at Morgantown the same day (Jett), and 69 at Point Lookout SP on July 8 (Craig).

*Heron, Egrets, Ibises, Spoonbill.* An **American Bittern** was seen through the summer at E. A. Vaughn WMA (Jenion, Dyke). **Least Bitterns** were also found at E. A. Vaughn with from 1 to 3 there from June 9 through the period (Jenion, Dyke), and a juvenile was seen there on July 4 (Dyke). Three were at Lilypons on June 21 and at least 2 were present through the summer (Hershberger+). Three other Least Bitterns were reported at Kings Creek on July 27 (Reese, Effinger). Harry Armistead and Paul Spitzer surveyed Holland Island on June 7, and for the fourth straight year, found all Maryland breeding herons and egrets. Breeding pairs estimated were as follows: 12 **Great Blue Heron**, 1 **Green Heron**, 7 **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron**, 30 **Black-crowned Night-Heron**, 7 **Tricolored Heron**, and 10 **Little Blue Heron**. Unfortunately, this island is eroding at an incredibly fast rate. Armistead and Spitzer found 119 active Great Blue Heron nests on Bloodsworth Island on June 7, and Blom estimated 400 Great Blues at Conowingo on June 27. Other interesting Great Blue reports were of 9 at Lilypons on June 21-22, 14 there July 21 (Cornelius), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn from June 25 through the season (Farrell). The partially drained ponds at Blackwater NWR attracted 67 **Great Egrets** on June 1 (Armistead), 2 were at Meadow Park, Cecil County on June 4 (Griffith), 1 was in the Middle Branch of the Baltimore Harbor on June 18, 5 were there on July 19 (Wilkinson), at Lilypons there were 2 on June 21 and 8 on July 27 (Cornelius), 5 were at Conowingo on June 26 (Webb), 3 were at Courthouse Point on July 2 (Griffith), and 8 were at North Beach on July 29 (Iliff, Stasz). **Snowy Egrets** included 27 at Blackwater NWR on June 1 (Armistead), 1 at Hart-Miller the same day (Iliff+), 11 at Claiborne on June 2 and 2 at Carmichael from June 19 through July 5 (Reese), 1 at Point Lookout on June 5 (Craig), 1 at Bay Ridge on June 6 (Iliff), an adult at Conowingo on June 27 (Blom), and 53 at North Beach on July 22 (Stasz). A Little Blue Heron was at Kent Island on June 20 (Fallon), 2 adults were at Carmichael on June 27 (Reese), 8 were at Courthouse Point on July 20 (Griffith), 3 were at Tanyard the same day and 40 were at Smith Island on July 21 (Stasz). Interesting Tricolored Herons included 1 at North Beach on June 3 (Stasz), 1 at Lilypons on June 19 (Jim Green), and 1 flying over Owings Mills on June 23 (Ed Boyd). **Cattle Egrets** were numerous and widespread with 60 tallied in wet fields along Hutton Road south of Elkton on June 3 (Griffith), 8 at Chestertown on June 15 (Grubers), 3 at Northgate, Cecil County on June 16 (Griffith), 5 at Carmichael on June 19 (Reese), 14 at Courthouse Point on July 2 (Griffith), 6 at Tuckahoe SP on July 12 (Bennett), 25 at Sudlersville on July 22 (Grubers), and 82 at Scotland on July 30 (Cribb). Other Green Herons included 8 at Courthouse Point on July 14 (Griffith) and 18 at Lilypons on July 27 (Huy, Cornelius). Brigitte Lund observed an adult Black-crowned Night-Heron flying over the Patapsco River from Baltimore County into Howard County at Patapsco Valley SP on June 7,

1 was at Dameron on June 8 (Craig), 5 were at Howard Pond in Elkton on June 21 (Marcia Whitmyre), 45 visited Conowingo on June 27 (Blom), and an adult Black-crowned was at Lake Elkhorn on July 17 (Wilkinson, Solem), as well as an immature (Farrell); both were seen on July 23-24 with the adult still present on July 30 (Farrell). Two adults and an immature were on Colgate Creek in Dundalk on July 23 (Wilkinson). Eight Yellow-crowned Night-Herons, most likely birds breeding at nearby Holland Island, were at Adam Island on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer), 2 were at Lilypons on June 21 (Cornelius), a pair was at Mile 47 of the C&O Canal in Montgomery County on June 22 (Lawrence Ruby), an adult was at Conowingo on June 27 (Blom), 1 was at Sligo Creek, Montgomery County on July 7 (William Easterly), 3 to 4 were at E. A. Vaughn WMA on July 9 (Jenion), 3 were at Silver Spring, July 15-24 (Alison Wickman), and 1 was in Frederick County near Doubs Road on July 27-28 (Huy+). On July 13, an immature **White Ibis** was found near Waldorf for a Charles County first, and an immature was seen nearby at Pope's Creek on July 28-30 (Jett). A **Glossy Ibis** was at Elkton on June 5, and 9 were located near Chesapeake City at the Bethel WMA on July 20 (Griffith). One Glossy was at Point Lookout on July 31 (Cribb). While studying Black Ducks on July 11, Mike Haramis flushed a **Roseate Spoonbill** out of the marshes at Martin NWR, Smith Island. Perhaps this was the same bird seen in Virginia at Back Bay NWR on June 23. The only other known Regional report for this species was also at Smith Island in 1978.

*Waterfowl.* A **Tundra Swan**, first noted on July 1, stayed for the entire season at Langford (Grubers), and other solitary Tundras were found at Tuckahoe SP on July 20 (Stasz), and at the Nitze Farm, Charles County on July 27 (Jett). **Mute Swans** included 1 in Harford County near Flintville on June 1 (Stasz), 172 at Bloodsworth Island and a pair with 4 young at Spring Island on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer), 250 at Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor), and 4 at Ewell, Smith Island on July 27 (Armistead). In Howard County, a pair of Mute Swans was noted on July 6 (Rosamond Munro) and appeared to frequent several ponds in the area. A very high summer count of 780 nonmigratory **Canada Geese** was made at Blackwater on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor), 400 were at Loch Raven on July 21 (Simon), and 65 were seen at Hollywood on July 31 (Craig). A female **Wood Duck** and 12 young were observed at Daniels on June 8 (Solem), and an adult **American Black Duck** with 3 young was at Wingate on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer). On June 29, 215 Black Ducks were tallied at Deal Island WMA (Armistead). A female **Mallard** was flushed off a nest with 5 eggs at a sand bar in Tar Bay north of Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor). The high for Mallards was 318 at Hart-Miller on July 6 (Scarpulla). A **Blue-winged Teal** was noted at Shorter's Wharf Road, Dorchester County on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer), and a **Northern Shoveler** was at the Chestertown sewage pond on July 1 (Grubers). A **Canvasback** was at Hart-Miller on June 1, where a **Gadwall** was seen the same day (Scarpulla+). The high for Gadwalls was 105 at Deal Island WMA on July 3 (Iliff). An adult male Canvasback was at Blackwater on June 18 (Iliff), and one was reported from Jug Bay on June 22 (Jack Peckham). The pair of **Ring-necked Ducks** at Centennial on June 9, with a female present through July 21, was an interesting find (Ott, Farrell+). A **Lesser Scaup** turned up at Carmichael on June 19 (Reese), and very unusual for mid-summer was the lone scaup at the Stemmer's Run boat ramp in Cecil County on July 14 (Griffith). An adult male **Surf Scoter** was reported on the Choptank in Cambridge on June 16-17 (Erick Smith). Marshall Iliff found an adult male **Common Merganser** at Crystal Spring Farm, Anne Arundel County on July 23. A **Ruddy Duck** was seen by several MOS members at Hart-Miller on June 8 (Scarpulla+), a male was at Lilypons on June 22 (Cornelius), one was at Selby on the Bay



throughout the season (Walbeck), another was seen in a pond off Route 13 in Salisbury on July 9 (Broderick), and one was at Chestertown on July 21 (Grubers).

*Diurnal Raptors.* Ethel Engle counted 33 **Black Vultures** at Tanyard on July 13, and an **Osprey** was seen at Lilypons on June 2 (Mike Welch), and on June 22 (Hershberger). Another **Osprey** was at Alpha Ridge Park on June 8 (Ott, Solem+). A **Mississippi Kite** was spotted at Scotland on July 14 (Iliff). An adult **Bald Eagle** was found in eastern Howard County near Belmont on June 1 (Kubitsky, Probst), 2 were at Lilypons on June 2 (Mike Welch), 1 was at the Potomac River in Frederick County on June 3 (Steve Huy), and 1 was noted at the Glades, Garrett County on July 6 (Ringler). Maryland DNR reported a record 201 **Bald Eagle** nests, fledging approximately 265 young, from the aerial surveys conducted. Rare for Cecil County in summer was the adult female **Northern Harrier** near Warwick on June 11 (Griffith, Holmes). Other **Northern Harriers** of note were one at Hart-Miller on June 1 and July 6 (Scarpulla+), and one at Alpha Ridge Park on June 8 (Ott+). While breeding **Northern Harriers** have not yet been confirmed in Carroll County, it might just be a matter of time, as Bob Ringler noted single harriers at five different locations during June. Coastal Plain sightings of **Cooper's Hawk** were made with reports of an adult male soaring with prey over the forest near the intersection of Routes 301 and 544 in Queen Anne's County on June 2 (Armistead), an immature at Linkwood on June 17 (Dyke), an adult in Waldorf on June 23 and an immature there on July 28 (Jett), a juvenile at Dameron on June 27 and one at Laurel Grove on July 10 (Craig), and 2 immatures at Twilley Bridge Road, Wicomico County on July 22 (Lawler). **Broad-winged Hawks** included 1 at Dameron on June 4 and June 8 (Craig), and an adult near Snow Hill on July 3 (Dyke). Jan Reese found breeding **Red-tailed Hawks** when he spied 2 fledglings at Carmichael on June 19 through July 5. An adult **American Kestrel** with 3 young was spotted at Libertytown on June 22 (Hershberger), and a **Peregrine Falcon** was seen over the settling ponds at the York Gravel plant on Route 40 near Perryville on July 9 (Griffith). One of the two hacking towers at South Marsh Island in Somerset County produced 3 young this season (Byrne).

*Pheasants, Turkeys, Rails, Plovers, Oystercatchers, Stilts.* A pair of **Ring-necked Pheasants** was found at Blackwater on June 18 (Iliff), and **Wild Turkey** reports included 24 at Concord on June 3 (Nuttie), 1 at Cove Point on June 15 (Stasz), 1 at Wye Island on June 26 (Fred Fallon), 15 at Blackwater on July 1 (Iliff), 2 at Bozman on July 7 (Reese), 3 at Westwood on July 19 (Stasz), and 1 at PRNAS on July 31 (Tom Wheeler). A few **Wild Turkeys** were seen almost daily throughout the season at the Rock Lodge Trust, a reclaimed strip mine near McHenry off of Rock Lodge Road in Garrett County, with 3 adults and 18 juveniles there on July 14 (Skipper). Four turkeys were spotted at Street, Harford County on July 15 (Debbie Bowers). A **Black Rail** answered a tape at E. A. Vaughn WMA on July 9 (Jenion), and a **King Rail** was at Bethel WMA on July 10 (Griffith). Two **King Rails** were located at Kings Creek on July 27 (Reese, Effinger). A **Clapper Rail** was at Cornfield Harbor, St. Mary's County on July 2 (Craig), and a **Sora** was at E. A. Vaughn WMA on June 4 (Dyke). An adult **Common Moorhen** with 3 young was at Tanyard on July 1 (Engle). Armistead found 2 late **American Coots** at Blackwater on June 1 and **Black-bellied Plovers** included 3 at Deal Island WMA on July 3 (Iliff), and 1 at Scotland on July 30 (Craig). **Semipalmated Plovers** at Hart-Miller included 1 on June 15, and 236 on July 27 (Scarpulla, Ricciardi+). Others of note included 1 at Blackwater on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor), and 1 at Tydings Island on July 13 (Blom). A **Killdeer** was observed incubating an egg beside the road at Carmichael on June 19 (Reese), and

35 were counted at Hart-Miller on June 22 increasing to 75 on July 20 (Scarpulla+). Other Killdeer included 66 at John Brown Road, Queen Anne's County on July 20 (Stasz), and 52 at Remington Farms, Kent County on July 21 (Grubers). Armistead reported 10 **American Oystercatchers** around Barren Island on June 16, 2 were at Hart-Miller on June 29 (Scarpulla+), 2 were at Point Lookout on July 5 (Cribb), and 16 were at Smith Island on July 21 (Stasz). Three **Black-necked Stilts** were at Deal Island WMA on June 29 (Armistead), and July 3 (Iliff). An **American Avocet** was discovered at Hart-Miller on July 20 (Scarpulla+).

*Tringine Sandpipers.* The 12 **Greater Yellowlegs** at Blackwater on June 1, along with 1 **Lesser Yellowlegs**, and the 4 Lessers there on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer) were most likely late spring migrants, while the 7 Greater at Deal Island WMA on June 29 (Armistead) should be considered fall birds. The high buildup of fall migrant Lesser Yellowlegs was at Hart-Miller with 1964 on July 27 (Scarpulla+). Forty-one Lessers were counted at North Beach on July 22 (Stasz). **Solitary Sandpipers** included 8 at Willow Road, Frederick County (Hershberger), and 8 in Charles County (Jett), on July 28. On June 7, a **Willet** nest with 4 eggs was found at Pone Island and another, with 3 eggs and 1 young, was located on Spring Island (Armistead, Spitzer). In St. Mary's County, a Willet was noted at Point Lookout on July 13 and 3 were checked off at Cornfield Harbor on July 22 (Cribb, Craig). Stasz and Iliff noted 2 juvenile migrant Willets at North Beach on July 25, and a western race Willet was identified at Hart-Miller on June 15 and July 20 (Scarpulla). **Spotted Sandpipers** included 45 at Hart-Miller on July 14 (Scarpulla), and 12 at Flag Ponds, Calvert County on July 26 (Arlene Ripley).

*Curlews, Godwits, Turnstones.* Two **Upland Sandpipers** were found near Lilypons on July 4 (Jody Hildreth), where 5 were listed on July 27 (Hershberger). Three migrant Uplands were at the Salisbury Airport on July 16 (Jenion), and 1 was at PRNAS on July 18 and 3 were there on July 23 (Lister). For what may be new county records, a single **Marbled Godwit** appeared at North Beach on July 25-26 (Iliff, Stasz+), and another was at Lily Ponds on July 28 (Hershberger, Cornelius). Hart-Miller hosted **Ruddy Turnstones** with 8 on June 8, 3 on July 20, and 16 on July 27 (Scarpulla). Others included 10 at Ocean City on July 13 (Paul DuMont) and 1 at Point Lookout on July 19 (Craig).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* **Red Knots** were also attracted to Hart-Miller, with 1 on June 1, 3 on July 20, and 7 on July 27 (Scarpulla). Its tough to say which direction the 2 **Sanderlings** at Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor) may have been headed. Two others were on Hart-Miller on June 22 (Scarpulla), and 1 was at Point Lookout on July 26 (Craig). The 135 **Semipalmated Sandpipers** at Blackwater on June 1 (Armistead), and the 3 at Blackwater and 2 at Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor) were most likely straggling spring migrants. Eight directionally tough-to-call Semipalms were found at Tydings Island on June 27 (Blom). A large fall buildup of 5,930 was found at Hart-Miller on July 27 (Scarpulla+). Others of note were 2 at Courthouse Point on July 6 and July 12 (Gary Griffith), 6 at Point Lookout on July 16 (Craig), and 30 at Blackwater on July 27 (Ringler+). **Western Sandpipers** included 2 at Tydings Island on June 27 (Blom), 3 at Hart-Miller on June 29 and 388 there on July 27 (Scarpulla+), 2 at Point Lookout on July 16 (Craig), and 2 at North Beach on July 22 (Stasz). The 10 **Least Sandpipers** at Blackwater on June 1 (Armistead) were exceptionally late for the spring, so the 2 there on June 10 (Iliff), and the 1 at Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor) perhaps were the first early fall migrants. Two were at Hart-Miller on June 22

(Scarpulla+), and 11 were at Tydings Island on June 27 (Blom). Other Least Sandpipers of note included 1 at Deal Island WMA on June 29 (Armistead), 3 at Kent Island on July 2 (Fallon), 9 at Deal Island WMA on July 3 (Iliff), 2 at Courthouse Point on July 6 and 26 there on July 10 (Griffith), and 3 near Morgantown on July 13 (Jett). The high for the fall buildup at Hart-Miller was 552 on July 14 (Blom, Scarpulla), and the last Least Sandpiper report was 20 at Jackson Road Pond, Caroline County on July 31 (Iliff). Late spring migrant **White-rumped Sandpipers** were checked off at Blackwater with 2 on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor). Hart-Miller hosted 5 on June 22 and 4 on July 27 (Scarpulla+). The high for **Pectoral Sandpipers** was 61 at Hart-Miller on July 27 (Scarpulla+). Other Pectorals included 1 at Courthouse Point on July 5 (Phil Davis), and 11 at John Brown Road, Queen Anne's County on July 20 (Stasz). Northbound **Dunlins** were running late with 9 at Blackwater on June 1 (Armistead). A solo Dunlin was found at Hart-Miller on June 22 (Scarpulla+). The high for southbound **Stilt Sandpipers** was a very nice 118 at Hart-Miller on July 27 (Scarpulla+). Other reports included 1 at Courthouse Point on July 6 (Griffith), 1 at Coveys Landing Road, Talbot County on July 20 (Stasz), 1 at Remington Farms, Kent County on July 21 (Grubers), 36 at North Beach on July 22 (Stasz), 4 at Oakwood Turf Farm, Wicomico County on July 29 (Dyke), and 1 at Jackson Road Pond, Caroline County on July 31 (Iliff). A female **Ruff** at Hart-Miller on July 20 was joined by a second on July 27 (Blom, Scarpulla+).

*Dowitchers, Phalaropes.* Harry Armistead reported spring migrant **Short-billed Dowitchers** with 3 at Blackwater on June 1, as well as a fall migrant Short-billed with one flying south across the mouth of the Miles River near St. Michaels on July 7. Hart-Miller hosted 1 Short-billed on June 8, 7 on July 6, and 157 on July 27 (Scarpulla+). Others included 1 at Courthouse Point on July 6 (Griffith) and 3 at Coveys Landing Road, Talbot County on July 20 (Stasz). The **Long-billed Dowitcher** at Jackson Road Pond, Caroline County on July 20 was very early (Stasz). The **Red-necked Phalarope** at Hart-Miller on July 20 was a nice find (Scarpulla, Blom).

*Gulls.* Seven pairs of **Laughing Gulls** were found on Spring Island on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer), indicating probable breeding, and six nests with eggs were found at Barren Island on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor). Others of note were 30 at Morgantown on July 4 (Jett), single sightings at the Cecil County landfill on July 16 and at Belvidere, Cecil County on July 25 (Griffith), and 2 at Stanford Blvd. in east Columbia on July 29 (Farrell). **Ring-billed Gulls** included 1 at Centennial on June 26 (Farrell), 285 at Tydings Island and 600 at Conowingo on June 27, and 400 at Tydings Island on July 4 (Blom), 1 in breeding plumage at St. Michaels on July 6 (Reese), 1 at Bellevue the same day (Armistead), 1 at Lake Elkhorn on July 11 (Wilkinson), 583 at Hart-Miller on July 20 (Scarpulla+), and 2 inland at Loch Raven on July 21 (Simon). Armistead and Spitzer estimated that they may have found about three quarters of the **Herring Gull** nests present at Spring Island when they located 209 nests on June 7. A few might have been Great Black-backed nests. Many of the Herring Gull nests had eggs or young present. Found around the Tar Bay islands on June 16 were over 104 Herring Gull nests with several eggs and young (Armistead, Taylor). About 970 Herring Gulls were at Hart-Miller on June 22 (Scarpulla+), Rick Blom tallied 110 Herring Gulls at Tydings Island on July 4, and the first fall arrival Herring Gulls at Bellevue were on July 21 (Armistead). **Lesser Black-backed Gulls** were found at Hart-Miller this summer with the high of 10 on June 29 (Scarpulla+). **Great Black-backed Gulls** were congregating at Tydings Island with 210 birds noted on July 4 (Blom), and 380 were at Hart-Miller on July 14 (Scarpulla+).

*Terns, Skimmers.* Single **Gull-billed Terns** were observed in St. Mary's County at Point Lookout on July 13 (Craig), and at Scotland on July 29 (Cribb). A **Caspian Tern** was discovered at Havre de Grace on June 1 (Iliff, Stasz), 5 were spotted at reliable Blackwater on June 16 (Armistead, Taylor, Willey), 51 were at Hart-Miller on June 22 (Scarpulla+), 28 were at Tydings Island on June 27 (Blom), and 3 were at Deal Island WMA on June 29 (Armistead). **Royal Terns** included 2 at Hart-Miller on June 1 (Scarpulla+), 2 at Claiborne on June 2 (Reese), and 15 at Morgantown on July 13 (Jett). Maryland DNR surveyed 363 pairs of Royals on Skimmer Island, Ocean City this season. Unusual sightings of **Sandwich Terns** were an adult off Rose Haven, Anne Arundel County on July 29 (Stasz), and an adult and one juvenile off Ridge, St. Mary's County on July 31 (Patty Craig). Four **Sandwich Terns** were noted at the Fourth Street flats in Ocean City on June 18 (Dyke). South Marsh Island, Somerset County was reported to have about 700 pairs of *Sterna* terns breeding (Byrne). On June 16 Harry Armistead and John Taylor recorded 226 *Sterna* tern nests with probably 10% **Common Terns** and 90% **Forster's Terns** on the recently separated marsh island just south of Barren Island. Other **Common Terns** included 1 at Conowingo and 2 at Tydings Island on June 27 (Blom), 2 at Tydings Island on July 4 (Blom), and 1 at St. Michaels on June 30 (Reese). At Lake Elkhorn, on June 17, Darius Ecker found an unusually marked tern that could have been a Common, a Forster's, or maybe a hybrid (unfortunately it did not vocalize). Large counts of Forster's Terns were 350 at Conowingo and 56 at Tydings Island on June 27 (Blom); a single Forster's was at Courthouse Point on July 2 (Griffith). Interesting **Least Tern** reports included 3 on the Elk River, Cecil County on July 11 (Gant), and 2 at St. Michaels on June 22 and 3 at the east end of the Bay Bridge on July 4 (Reese). Nine colonies surveyed by Maryland DNR produced a nice total of 569 **Least Tern** pairs (Glenn Therres). Many of these nests were on flat rooftops. **Black Terns** were identified this summer at Hart-Miller on June 1 (Scarpulla+), at St. Michaels on July 21 (Todd Day), at Tilghman on July 21 (Effinger, Olsen), and another at Rowland Island, Harford County on July 26 (Webb). A first-summer **Sooty Tern**, probably a holdover from Hurricane Bertha, was spotted from a ferry in Somerset County on July 21 (Stasz). Along with the breeding terns this summer at South Marsh Island, Somerset County were 10 pairs of **Black Skimmers** (Byrne). Other skimmers included 1 at Point Lookout on June 24 and 2 there on July 9 (Sue Scheider), and 3 at Deal Island WMA on June 29 (Armistead).

*Cuckoos, Owls, Swifts, Hummingbirds.* Some nice **Black-billed Cuckoos** were checked off this summer including single birds at Indian Creek WMA, Charles County on June 16 (Jett), at Salisbury on June 26 (Dyke), and at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Prince George's County on June 28 and at Jug Bay on July 11 (Bystrak). Jan Reese observed a **Barred Owl** pair with at least 2 fledglings at Pickering Creek near Easton on June 13, and 50 **Chimney Swifts** were listed at Greensboro on June 28 (Scudder). A **Ruby-throated Hummingbird** was found sitting in a nest 25 feet above ground in a loblolly pine, with a male nearby, at St. Michaels on June 9.

*Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.* Reese reported still more seasonal activity, citing a pair of **Hairy Woodpeckers** frequenting a tree cavity at Carmichael on June 19, and a pair of **Pileated Woodpeckers** at a cavity in a dead snag at Pickering Creek on June 13 (Reese). A **Red-bellied Woodpecker** was seen carrying a cherry to a nest at Dameron on June 5 (Craig). A pair of **Northern Flickers** was feeding young in a nest at Denton on July 28 (Bennett). A **Scissor-tailed Flycatcher** was reported at Jug Bay on June 20 (Bystrak). **Acadian Flycatchers** of note

were 2 nesting at Hollywood on June 3 (Reese) and 1 carrying nesting material at Dameron on June 5 (Craig). A **Willow Flycatcher** was identified at Smith Island on July 21 (Stasz). Armistead noted a migrant **Least Flycatcher** at Bellevue on July 28, and a pair of **Eastern Kingbirds** with 3 young, also at Bellevue, on July 20. Reese found a **Great Crested Flycatcher** feeding young in a nest box at St. Michaels on June 17. Earlier, Great Cresteds nested successfully in a Wood Duck box at Denton with young noted from June 2 to July 13 (Bennett).

*Swallows.* Patty Craig estimated about 100 **Purple Martins** at Point Lookout SP on July 9, Dave Webb counted about 20 southbound at Emmorton on July 14, and approximately 100 Martins were at Tanyard on July 31 (Engle). Jan Reese observed a pair of **Tree Swallows** feeding 3 young in a nest box at Pickering Creek on June 13. Other Tree Swallows included 700 at Courthouse Point on July 20 (Griffith), 1500 at Brice's Mill Road, Kent County on July 28 (Grubers), and over 70 at Tanyard on July 31 (Engle). Interesting **Northern Rough-winged Swallows** were 2 gathering nesting material at Queenstown on June 8 (Poet), 1 at Linkwood Reservoir on June 18 and 1 at Jarrett Tract on June 24 in Dorchester County (Iliff), 4 at Courthouse Point on July 14 (Griffith), 200 at Fairlee on July 20 (Grubers), 65 at Lilypons on July 27 (Huy, Cornelius), and 500 at Brice's Mill Road, Kent County on July 28 (Grubers). About 100 **Bank Swallows** were tallied at Havre de Grace on June 1 (Iliff, Stasz), 70 were found on Hart-Miller on July 6 (Scarpulla+), and 3 were at Courthouse Point the same day (Griffith). Armistead also noted his first fall migrant Bank Swallow at Bellevue on July 6, 150 were at Will Smith Road, Queen Anne's County on July 20 (Stasz), and 2000 were at Chestertown on July 28 (Grubers). **Barn Swallows** included 100 at Hart-Miller on June 29 (Scarpulla), and 200 at Point Lookout on July 9 (Scheider).

*Jay, Tits, Nuthatches.* Unusual for the outer Dorchester County islands was a **Blue Jay** at Adam Island on June 7 (Armistead, Spitzer). **Tufted Titmouse** reports included a successfully fledged young in one of Elizabeth Pitney's bird boxes in Parsonsburg on June 8, 1 feeding young in a nest box at St. Michaels on June 17 (Reese), and one with 2 fledglings on July 21 at Tilghman Island (Reese), a rare location for this species. **White-breasted Nuthatches** also favored Pickering Creek with a pair frequenting a knothole in a dead tree there on June 13 (Reese). Reese also reported 3 **Brown-headed Nuthatches** at Piney Point, St. Mary's County on June 5.

*Wrens, Gnatcatchers, Thrushes.* Jan Reese observed a **House Wren** feeding young in a nest box at St. Michaels on June 17, and Steve Huy reported a **Winter Wren** at Keedysville on July 25-26. The Grubers discovered 3 **Marsh Wrens** at a pond in Kent County on July 1. Male and female **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were observed at a nest near the Sang Run-Cranesville Road in Garrett County on June 15 (Skipper). Another blue-gray was at Tilghman Island on July 21, and a pair of **Eastern Bluebirds**, with a fledgling, was at Claiborne on June 2 (Reese). A **Swainson's Thrush** was seen near Iron Furnace, Worcester County on July 12 (Broderick), and a **Wood Thrush** feeding a recently fledged youngster was at Carmichael on June 27 (Reese). An **American Robin** was observed making a nest at Point Lookout SP on July 15 (Craig).

*Mimids, Waxwings, Starlings.* A **Gray Catbird** nest with three eggs was found on May 31 at Piney Run (Ringler), and Reese found another with 1 egg at Pickering Creek on June 13 and



a catbird feeding 3 young in a nest at St. Michaels on June 17. Ringler observed a pair of **Cedar Waxwings** courtship feeding at Piney Run on May 31, and Jenion reported 2 pairs in her yard in Salisbury with an adult feeding 2 young on July 8, and also a pair nest building on July 12. **European Starlings** were observed forming large flocks at Blackwater on June 18 (Iliff), and about 500 were estimated at Scotland on July 15 (Craig).

*Warblers, Summer Tanager.* The **Blue-winged Warbler** at Chingville near Great Mills, St. Mary's County on June 4 was a very interesting sighting (Reese). Also interesting locations for this species were one at Bittinger on June 5 and another near Sang Run-Cranesville Road on June 15 in Garrett County (Skipper). Two **Golden-winged Warblers** with a fledgling were at Federal Hill, Allegany County on July 12 (Ringler). A **Magnolia Warbler** and a **Blackpoll Warbler** were at Budds Creek, St. Mary's County on June 1 (Reese), and a pair of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** was located on a nest at New Germany SP, Garrett County on June 14 (Czaplak, Todd). The male was singing and the female was incubating for what may be the first documented record for a **Yellow-rumped** nest in Garrett County. An adult **Yellow-throated Warbler** was observed feeding 2 young at Tilghman Island on July 21 (Reese, Effinger, Olsen, Willey). A pair of **Worm-eating Warblers**, with 2 recently fledged young, was at Pocomoke City on June 10, and an **Ovenbird** nest with 4 young being fed by the parents was located at Hollywood on June 3 (Reese). A late **Northern Waterthrush** was at Jug Bay on June 3 (Bystrak). Connie Skipper heard and saw a **Mourning Warbler** at the Sang Run-Cranesville Road in Garrett County on June 13 and June 15. A pair of **Mourning Warblers** was noted near Table Rock Road, also in Garrett County, on June 25 (Green). A late **Canada Warbler** was reported at Lake Elkhorn on June 6 (Ecker), and a singing male **Summer Tanager**, probably a summer wanderer, was noted at Soldier's Delight, Baltimore County on June 25 (Ringler).

*Dickcissels, Sparrows.* It was a good season for **Dickcissels**, with reports from 12 Maryland counties including a singing male at Boxiron, Worcester County on June 9 (Jenion), and 8 near Lilypons (Barry Cooper), and 1 at Pylesville (Blom) the same day. Others included 11 at PRNAS on June 12 (Lister, Bob Boxwell), 11 near Lilypons on June 22 (Cornelius), 1 in Howard County near Fox Valley on July 4 (Stasz), 3 near Walkersville on July 5 (Wilkinson), 1 at Bywater Road, Anne Arundel County on July 11 and July 25 (Iliff), 3 at Salisbury Airport on July 13 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Bestpitch Ferry Road, Dorchester County on July 25 (Stasz). Eight **Eastern Towhees**, including a small fledgling, were found at Elk Neck SF, Cecil County on June 2 (Stasz, Iliff). Rick Blom discovered a **Vesper Sparrow** at Pylesville on June 9. A **Savannah Sparrow** was also near Walkersville on July 5 (Wilkinson), and there were reports of breeding Savannahs at four sites in Carroll County (Ringler). Patty Craig found a **Grasshopper Sparrow** gathering grass for a nest at Scotland on July 15. Connie Skipper again observed **Henslow's Sparrows** in Garrett County. She heard 4 in a field on Frank Brenneman Road on June 11, banded 31 from July 10 through Aug. 9 at Rock Lodge Trust, and identified territories for 7 uncaptured males for a total of 21 males in the population. Four **Seaside Sparrows** were near Grasonville on July 3 (Poet), and 1 was at Point Lookout on July 8 (Craig). Two **Song Sparrows**, one feeding a cowbird, were noted at Havre de Grace on June 1 (Iliff, Stasz). Bob Ringler reported singing **Swamp Sparrows** at two locations in Carroll County. A **White-throated Sparrow** was at Finzel Swamp, Garrett County on June 26 (Green), and another was at Lilypons on July 28 (Hershberger).

*Icterines, Siskins.* A **Common Grackle** was observed feeding 2 young in a nest at St. Michaels on June 17 (Reese), and large flocks of Common Grackles were forming at Blackwater on June 18 (Iliff). Five **Bobolinks** were at Kings Creek on July 27 (Reese, Effinger), and another was at North Beach the same day (Stasz). Several birders reported June Bobolinks in Frederick, Cecil and Carroll Counties, indicating probable breeding. Jan Reese observed a pair of **Orchard Orioles** building a nest at Kings Creek on June 8, and another with a nest, but feeding a nearly fledged cowbird, at Pickering Creek on June 13. Two adult Orchard Orioles were feeding young at Queenstown, June 29 (Poet). Jenion reported a **Baltimore Oriole** carrying food at Johnson's Pond, Salisbury on June 6, and Reese counted 4 Baltimores at Carmichael on June 19. Two **Pine Siskins** visited Connie Skipper's feeder near Oakland on July 24.

*Corrigendum.* In the Spring 1995 report (Volume 52, Number 3), the Blue Grosbeak, Orchard Oriole, and Baltimore Oriole at Bayside Beach were not seen on April 3rd, but rather on April 30, 1995.

9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, Maryland 21046

## CHANGES IN BIRD CLASSIFICATION

The July 1997 issue of *The Auk* announced some important changes in bird classification, based in part on recent DNA-DNA hybridization studies. These changes will appear in the Seventh Edition of the A.O.U. *Check-list of North American Birds*, which is scheduled for publication by the American Ornithologists' Union in 1998. Several of these changes involve birds that occur in Maryland.

Most minor alterations, such as rearrangement of sequence within a family, will hardly be noticed by the average birder, but in a few instances an entire family has been moved to an unfamiliar location. Most noticeable is the shift of the shrikes (Family Laniidae) and vireos (Vireonidae) so they and the jays and crows (Corvidae) now come between the tyrant flycatchers (Tyrannidae) and the larks (Alaudidae) at the beginning of the songbirds. Another major shift in classification removed the New World vultures (Cathartidae) from the Order Falconiformes; vultures now soar next to the storks in the Order Ciconiiformes, separated from the hawks by the waterfowl. The starlings (Sturnidae) now precede the pipits (Motacillidae) and waxwings (Bombycillidae).

Some familiar groups of birds that lost their family status in the 6th (1983) edition of the check-list have now been restored to family status: thrushes (Turdidae), kinglets (Regulidae), warblers (Parulidae), tanagers (Thraupidae), Cardinal through Dickcissel (Cardinalidae), New World Sparrows (Emberizidae), and blackbirds and orioles (Icteridae). The Blue-gray Gnatcatcher will be the only Maryland bird remaining in the Family Muscicapidae.

The chickadees, which have been in the genus *Parus* since the 5th (1957) edition, are changed to *Poecile*, while the titmice are returned to their former genus, *Baeolophus*. Other generic changes affecting Maryland birds are Burrowing Owl (returned to *Athene cunicularia*), Olive-sided Flycatcher (now *Contopus cooperi*) and Cliff Swallow (changed back to *Petrochelidon pyrrhonota*). The Solitary Vireo is split into three species, with the eastern bird assigned its original name of Blue-headed Vireo (*Vireo solitarius*).—Ed.

**MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.**  
**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR**  
**MAY 1, 1996 THROUGH APRIL 30, 1997**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<b>OPERATING FUND</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Dues	20,000	17,792.50
Transfer from Sanct. Endowment	630	
Investment Income	1,500	1,715.86
Publications Income		1,867.25
Mail Permit Contribution	38	42.50
Membership Pins	100	22.50
Miscellaneous	550	10.39
Environmental Fund of Md.	1,500	3,804.91
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>24,218</b>	<b>25,255.91</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Publications Committee		
<i>Maryland Birdlife</i>	8,725	5,209.90
<i>Yellowthroat</i>	8,825	7,366.81
<i>Yellowbook</i>		3,596.74
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,550</b>	<b>16,173.45</b>
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE AND OFFICE:</b>		
President's Expenses	100	45.78
Vice President's Expenses	50	
Secretary's Expenses	150	92.00
Treasurer's Expenses	75	145.95
Executive Secretary	2,400	2,400.00
Postage	350	634.24
Bulk Mailing Permits	255	170.00
Membership List Database	600	393.00
Printing and Duplication	300	539.45
Office Supplies	200	23.53
Publicity and Awards	300	55.76
Affiliations	225	325.00
Liability Insurance	500	443.00
MOS Telephone	500	594.95
Contingencies	500	11.09
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,505</b>	<b>5,828.97</b>

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<b>COMMITTEE RELATED EXPENSES:</b>		
Budget Committee	25	
Conservation Committee	1,000	
Education Committee	100	
Library Committee	500	148.00
Conference Committee	1,200	
Gifts Committee	20	
Long Range Planning	50	
Nominating Committee	50	
Speakers Bureau	50	
Records Committee	250	
Research Committee	50	
Scholarship Committee	75	117.45
May Count Coordination	50	
TOTAL	3,420	265.45
<b>CONFERENCE:</b>		
1996 Conference Income		10,083.50
Expenses		21,493.46
1997 Conference Income		18,275.00
Expenses		2,267.86
<b>OPERATING FUND -- OTHER FUNDS</b>		
Maryland Atlas:		
Begin		2,433.27
Expenses		1,378.94
Balance		865.51
Atlas — Chesapeake Bay Trust		
Chesapeake Bay Atlas Trust Fund		4,000.00
Maryland Atlas		<u>1,134.49</u>
Total		5,134.49
Expenses		5,134.49
Balance		0.
Rain Forest Challenge — <i>FUNDAECO</i>		
1994/95 Income		193.67
Total sent to <i>FUNDAECO</i>		0.
Brazil IEF		
Begin		800.00
Income		0.
Balance		800.00
MOS Brochures		
Balance		2,879.26
MOS Conference		3,000.00
Index, <i>Maryland Birdlife</i> :		
Balance		1,340.00

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<b>SANCTUARY ENDOWMENT FUND</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Dividends	3,300	5,361.83
Contributions	400	329.50
Life Membership	400	
TOTAL	4,100	5,691.33
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Bond Maint.	15	15.00
Transfer to Operating Fund	630	630.00
Transfer to Sanctuary Fund	2,655	5,046.33
TOTAL	3,300	5,691.33

<b>SANCTUARY FUND</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Transfer	2,655	5,046.33
Interest Income	1,500	1,435.25
Use Fees — Irish Grove	2,000	583.50
Carey Run		
Signs	50	392.00
TOTAL	6,205	7,457.08*
<b>EXPENSES:</b>		
Irish Grove	4,000	4,806.99
Carey Run	1,400	*
Liability Insurance	800	800.00
Contingencies	2,000	
Total Sanctuary Expenses	8,200	5,609.99*

*\*The income and expenses for Carey Run reflect income received by or expenses paid by the MOS treasurer.*

<b>SANCTUARY MAINTENANCE FUND</b>		
Balance	24,544.28	
Dividends/Interest	1,525.70	
Balance		26,069.98

<b>SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND</b>		
<b>INCOME:</b>		
Contributions	200	529.50
Dividends/Interest	4,000	4,491.62
Carryover from 1996		154.91
TOTAL	4,200	5,176.03**

*\*\* Amount available for Summer 1998 MOS Scholarships*



**SCHOLARSHIP FUND****INCOME: Summer 1997**

Dividends/Interest	4,878.57
Gibson-Mendinhall Scholarship	825.00
Orville Crowder Memorial Scholarship	600.00
Total Income	6,303.57

**EXPENSES:**

Summer 1996 Scholarships	6,225.00
Maintenance Fee	243.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>6,468.13</b>

**RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND****INCOME:**

Contributions	0.	
Dividends/Interest	2,341.02	
Carry Over	662.33	3,003.35**

*\*\*Amount available for 1997/98 Research Grants*

**EXPENSES:**

Grants	2,500.00
Maintenance Fee	243.13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,743.13</b>

**FUTURE ATLAS ACCOUNT (RESERVE)**

BEGINNING BALANCE	3,870.28
INCOME: Dividends/Interest	4,572.52
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8,442.80</b>
EXPENSES: Maintenance Fee	244.45
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>8,198.35</b>

**UNASSIGNED BEQUESTS**

BEGINNING BALANCE	61,084.63
Dividends/Interest	2,732.36
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>63,816.99</b>

**EDUCATION FUND**

BEGINNING BALANCE	31,383.35
Dividends/Interest	1,901.57
Balance	33,284.92
Education Grants	7,715.46
<b>ENDING BALANCE</b>	<b>25,569.46</b>

**YELLOWBOOK UPDATE FUND**

BALANCE	11,000.00
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**UNSPECIFIED AND OTHER DONATIONS**

Income	16,100.67
Holding	2,499.48

*Jeff Metter, Treasurer*

## MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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*Bulletin of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.*

**DECEMBER 1997  
VOLUME 53  
NUMBER 4**

# MARYLAND ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore, MD 21209  
STATE OFFICERS FOR JUNE 1997 TO JUNE 1998

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*Cover: Red-breasted Nuthatch, Assateague Island, Sept. 25, 1993. Photo by Mark Hoffman.*



## **BALD EAGLE NESTLING FOSTERED INTO ANOTHER NEST**

**GLENN D. THERRES, GUY W. WILLEY, SR. AND CRAIG KOPPIE**

Fostering is the process of placing a young bird into the nest of an unrelated pair of the same species. This technique has been used for several species of North American raptors to increase the number of young fledged by these birds (Barclay 1987). The source of these young has been either captively produced birds or young taken from multiple brood nests within stable populations.

Placing young Bald Eagles (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*) into the nests of breeding pairs that had a history of eggs failing to hatch was a technique employed during the early years of eagle recovery (Wiemeyer 1981, Engel and Isaacs 1982). Its primary purpose was to keep mated pairs active until they produced their own young. Postupalsky and Holt (1975) were the first to report successfully fostering a Bald Eagle chick into the nest of another eagle that already had young. In addition to Michigan, eagle chicks have been accepted into nests with young in several states, including Maine, Minnesota, Ohio, Virginia and Wisconsin (Wiemeyer 1981, Engel and Isaacs 1982). In many of these situations, the young eagle was obtained from a nest that had blown out of a tree. Placing young in nests with similar aged chicks is key to successful fostering attempts (Barclay 1987).

In Maryland, fostering was not needed to bolster natural productivity of our nesting Bald Eagles. When nests with young fell to the ground we normally employed a hands-off policy, allowing nature to run its course. However, a situation developed in the 1997 nesting season that warranted a deviation from our hands-off policy.

On May 9, 1997, Kelly Allen of the Talbot County Humane Society recovered a nestling Bald Eagle from a nest blown out of a tree in the Coopersville area of Talbot County. No adult eagles were observed in the area. The young bird appeared injured, so it was taken in for medical attention. The veterinary staff of the Baltimore Zoo determined the 8-week old eagle to be malnourished, but not injured. It was kept at the Zoo for three days and fed to improve its condition.

While the young eagle was at the Zoo, we decided it was inappropriate to return the young to the site it came from, considering no adults were observed at the time it was rescued and several days would pass before we could transport the bird back to the Eastern Shore. We therefore decided to foster the young into the nest of another eagle. The most recent aerial survey of nests in Talbot County was March 24, so there was no recent information on number of young in these nests to help identify a potential foster nest. Fortunately, an aerial survey of the lower Eastern Shore counties had been conducted on April 25. We selected two nests in



Dorchester County as possible foster nests. Both nests had two young each of similar age to the rescued young. The first choice was a nest near Hudson on private property. This was the first year for this nesting pair.

On the afternoon of May 12, the young eagle was transported from the Baltimore Zoo to Dorchester County. It was held overnight with plans to foster the young the following morning. At 9:30 a.m. on May 13 the young eagle was taken to the site of its new nest. The weather was cloudy with threats of rain and temperatures in the upper 60s °F. The young eagle was banded on the right leg and placed in the foster nest by 10:15 a.m. Only one 7-week old nestling was in the nest. We also banded this bird, but on the left leg to help distinguish between the two young. The operation was completed by 10:30 a.m. and the site was vacated by all personnel involved.

Intensive monitoring was conducted during this same day and regular monitoring occurred through July 1. Observations were made from a distance of approximately 500 m from the nest tree.

Within 5 minutes after the crew left the site, one adult Bald Eagle returned to a tree near the nest. At 11:00 a.m. the second adult landed in a tree nearby. At 11:05 a.m. an adult landed on the nest. It started pecking at the leg bands on both young. Apparently, it accepted the new young into its nest. The second adult flew to the nest and also did not act adversely to the new nestling. For the next 30 minutes, the one adult continued to peck at the leg bands. By noon one adult was brooding the young birds. For the next three hours the nestlings and adults shared the nest. The fostering attempt appeared successful.

The following morning, both young were observed feeding on fish in the nest. During the following six weeks the nest was visited on 22 days to monitor the progress of the fostered young. Through June 3 the nestlings were observed in the nest or standing on the edge of the nest. On June 5, one young had climbed out of the nest and was sitting on a limb above it. By June 25 both young had fledged and were flying well.

Fostering this young eagle into the nest of another pair of Bald Eagles worked as expected. The foster parents accepted the new young eagle without incident and raised it as if it were their own. This finding is consistent with fostering attempts elsewhere.

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## CASPIAN TERN, FISH CROW, AND NORTHERN MOCKINGBIRD BEHAVIOR

HENRY T. ARMISTEAD

The following accounts describe unusual behavior observed in Dorchester County, Maryland, in 1997.

**Caspian Tern** (*Sterna caspia*). On May 3, Floyd L. Parks, William C. Russell, and the writer watched two Caspian Terns from Wildlife Drive of Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge in the late morning. These two birds took turns each dive-bombing a Great Blue Heron (*Ardea herodias*) five times in tandem. The heron was standing on a sod bank about 150 yards away from us in the tidal area and had just captured a fish six or seven inches in length, perhaps a perch of some kind. The terns, in spite of the size difference between them and the heron as well as the seeming inappropriateness of a fish that size as a suitable prey item for them, gave every impression that they were really trying to get the heron to drop the fish. Judging from what we saw on May 3, I submit this as a case of attempted kleptoparasitism.

Caspian Terns are impressive, although their participation in kleptoparasitism is apparently uncommon. It is not mentioned in Bent (1963, 1921) although this species is described there as "The largest, the strongest and the fiercest of the terns, it well deserves the name, imperial tern" (pp. 202-203). Cramp (1985) does implicate the Caspian with kleptoparasitism, saying "Practices food-piracy on Laridae and other Sternidae" (p. 21) and that they are "Highly aggressive, more so than in most Sternidae, whether in colony or in pre-breeding roost nearby" (p. 23).

Francesca Cuthbert, author of the forthcoming Caspian Tern account for *Birds of North America*, has this to say (pers. comm.): "My only observation [of kleptoparasitism] was at a colony in northern Lake Michigan. Several pairs of Red-breasted Mergansers also nest on the island with several hundred pairs of Caspians. The mergansers used to fish within several hundred meters of the Caspians and on a number of occasions I watched Caspians harass the mergs. The Caspians would cruise over the area where the mergs were diving and bringing up fish. As soon as a merg would surface with a fish, a Caspian would dive at it and almost strike it. The tern always gave its typical raucous vocalization. Sometimes the mergs appeared so startled they would drop the fish and the Caspian would grab it but this was very rare."

**Fish Crow** (*Corvus ossifragus*). On June 12, John W. Taylor and I were returning from a boat survey of Barren Island and vicinity. As we turned into the harbor at Fishing Creek on Hooper's Island at 5:00 p.m. we saw six or seven Barn Swallows (*Hirundo erythrogaster*) harassing a Fish Crow that was flying under the bridge over Fishing Creek. To our surprise the crow then swooped up and perched under the bridge out of sight much in the way that Rock Doves (*Columba livia*) do when they are landing in similar sites. Presumably the crow then was able to feed on swallow eggs or young to its heart's content. After several minutes the crow still had not emerged from under the bridge. I assume that if the bridge were lower with only a couple of feet or less clearance from the water the swallow nests may have been safer from this sort of presumed predation.

Fish Crows are famous as omnivorous feeders and notorious for the damage they do in heron colonies and in colonies of other colonial birds in addition to their "normal" food of marine and aquatic life, much of it found washed up on the shore (Bent 1964, 1946). In my visits to Chesapeake Bay heronries over a 30-year period I have tried to be as circumspect as possible because after human visitation Fish Crows will enter the colony before the disturbed herons return to their nests. What I usually try to do is observe the nests from a distance after the eggs have hatched and the young are large enough so that the crows will not bother them. Bent details one Fish Crow feeding area at Wakulla Beach, Florida, where William G. Fago "found the remains of 79 or more clapper rails' eggs, one willet's egg, two Wilson's plover eggs, seven hens' eggs, several turtles' eggs, one fish head, and one rock crab" (pp. 278-279). Bent goes on to say: "They rob the nests of all the herons, large and small, as well as the ibises, spoonbills, anhingas, and even cormorants" (p. 279).

Even more extraordinary is an account by Christopher C. Witt (pers. comm.) of a Fish Crow preying on a Chimney Swift (*Chaetura pelagica*). Witt was doing field work in the Gulf of Mexico on Horn Island, Mississippi, in April 1993. One morning soon after sunrise he observed a Chimney Swift clinging to the bark of a tree. In the early morning chill it spread its wings to absorb the sun's rays. While it was still thus hanging from the tree trunk a Fish Crow swooped down, grabbed it, and flew off with it in its beak while the swift made high-pitched screeching noises in protest.

**Northern Mockingbird** (*Mimus polyglottos*). On June 14 Anne T. Armistead, Mary E. Armistead and I stopped at the Visitor Center at Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge at 3:30 p.m. Because of all the plantings there, many of them done during Bill Julian's tenure as Refuge Manager, and because of the feeders and good habitat, this is always a good place for landbirds. Our attention was attracted to an extremely vocal and active Northern Mockingbird singing and performing frequent aerial displays in this area. This individual seemed to have an extremely rich repertoire. The "flight display" is given most frequently by unmated, territorial males and, not surprisingly, unmated males sing more than mated ones, and older birds have an increased repertoire size (Derrickson and Breitwisch 1992). These authors also note that "Males that sing with the greatest versatility...are the first to attract mates and begin nesting."

In the space of about two minutes we heard this mockingbird do easily recognized imitations of 12 species: Greater Yellowlegs, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Purple Martin, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Wood Thrush, Northern Cardinal, Eastern Towhee, and American Goldfinch. This struck me as an unusually wide variety of imitations for such a short period of time. Perhaps mockingbirds' repertoires reflect the richness of birdlife in the areas they inhabit. This part of Blackwater Refuge is in an atlas block that held the second highest diversity (103 species) of the 1,256 blocks in all of Maryland (Robbins and Blom 1996).

Over a period in excess of 45 years I have compiled a list of mockingbird imitations heard at our Talbot County vacation home, which is at Lucy Point on Ferry Neck near the town of Bellevue (Armistead 1996). These include all the species listed in the above paragraph (except Tree Swallow) plus in addition: Green Heron, Northern Bobwhite, Virginia Rail, Royal Tern, Chuck-will's-widow, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Wood Pewee, Blue Jay, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Brown-headed Nuthatch, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Common Yellowthroat, and House Sparrow. Most interesting are mockingbirds that do imitations of birds not known to occur in the areas where I have heard them, such as Chuck-will's-widows in Philadelphia and Virginia Rail at my Maryland property.

Impressive as this extent of mimicry may be, it is dramatically surpassed by several accounts cited in Bent (1964, 1948). Leverett M. Loomis heard one bird near Chester, South Carolina, imitate 32 species in 10 minutes (p. 311). W. L. Dawson reports one bird imitating 58 species (p. 311). A famous story concerns Nightingales introduced by Edward Bok in the Lake Wales, Florida, area (p. 310). Soon after the introduction mockingbirds had added the Nightingales' celebrated song to their repertoires and continued to sing it after the Nightingales had died out. Lastly, F. M. Matson reported from Pensacola, Florida, that one mockingbird's most frequent imitation was the Field Sparrow's song, yet in ten years of Matson's residence he had never heard a Field Sparrow singing there (p. 312).

Most of my birding time is devoted to recording numbers and dates and is oriented toward chronicling spatial and temporal abundance, distribution, and occurrence. These incidents of unusual behavior helped me to a greater appreciation of how interesting bird behavior is.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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## FALL MIGRATION, AUG. 1 - NOV. 30, 1996

**DANIEL R. SOUTHWORTH**

The season was generally cool, with more rainfall than normal, and marked by several storm systems. Hurricane *Fran* hit on September 6 with considerable force, moving some species such as jaegers and terns inland, but the weather was more severe in Virginia than in Maryland. *Josephine*, October 8, was much weaker in general.

*Observers:* Henry Armistead, Anne Bishop, Rick Blom, Ed Boyd, Bob Boxwell, Carol & Don Broderick, Gwen Burkhardt, Martha Chestem, Barry Cooper, Stephen Cornelius, Ian Cornelius, Patty Craig, Marty Cribb, David Czaplak, Lynn Davidson, Deanna Dawson, Bill Dobbins, Sam Dyke, Les Eastman, Ward Ebert, Darius & Paula Ecker, Ethel Engle (reporting for Caroline County), Fred Fallon, Jane Farrell, Gary Felton, Inez Glime, Jim Gruber, Wilbur Hershberger, Marshall Iliff, Simone Jenion, George Jett, Ellen Lawler, Doug Lister, Lisa Lister, Nancy Magnusson, Sean McCandless, Mike & Grazina McClure, Stauffer Miller, Carol & Paul Newman, Mariana Nuttle, Doug Odermatt, Peter Osenton, Bonnie Ott, Jim Paulus, Paul Pisano, Elizabeth Pitney (reporting for the Wicomico Bird Club), Danny Poet, Fran Pope, Kyle Rambo, Jan Reese, Robert Ringler, Eugene Scarpulla, Kurt Schwarz, Bill Scudder, Stephen Simon, Connie Skipper, David Smith, Jo Solem (reporting for Howard County), Bob Solem, Dan & Linda Southworth, Jim Stasz, Chuck Stirrat, Debbie Terry, Mary Ann Todd, Dave Walbeck, Mark Wallace, Dave Webb, Dave Weesner, Hal Wierenga, Jim Wilkinson, Helen Zeichner.

Banding was conducted at Chestertown by Jim Gruber and at Cherry Creek by Connie Skipper and Fran Pope. Hart-Miller Island records were provided by Gene Scarpulla.

*Abbreviations:* DC – District of Columbia, NWR – National Wildlife Refuge, PRNAS – Patuxent River Naval Air Station, PWRC – Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, SP – State Park, UMCF – University of Maryland Central Farm, WMA – Wildlife Management Area, WS – Wildlife Sanctuary.

*Locations:* Place names (with counties in parentheses) not in the index of the State highway map: Assateague Island (Worcester), Alpha Ridge Park (Howard), Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary (Frederick), Battery Kemble Park (DC), Black Hill Park (Montgomery), Blackwater NWR (Dorchester), Broadford Lake (Garrett), Centennial Park (Howard), Cherry Creek (Garrett), Deep Creek Lake (Garrett), E. A. Vaughn WMA (Worcester), Eden Brook (Howard), Gunpowder River (Harford), Hains Point (DC), Harney Road Ponds (Frederick), Hart-Miller Dredged Material Containment Facility (Baltimore), Hooper Island (Dorchester), Hughes Hollow (Montgomery), Irish Grove WS (Somerset), Kershner Pond (Frederick), Lake Elkhorn



(Howard), Lake Kittamaquundi (Howard), Little Seneca Lake (Montgomery), Loch Raven (Baltimore), Meadow Mountain Lake (Garrett), Myrtle Grove WMA (Charles), Oakwood Turf Farm (Wicomico), Pennyfield (Montgomery), Piney Run Park (Carroll), PRNAS (St. Mary's), PWRC (Prince George's unless noted otherwise), Rockburn Branch Park (Howard), Rock Creek Park (DC), Rocky Gap SP (Allegany), Sandy Point SP (Anne Arundel), Schoolhouse Pond (Prince George's), Schooley Mill Park (Howard), Table Rock (Garrett), Town Hill (Allegany), Triadelphia Reservoir (Howard unless noted otherwise), Turkey Point (Cecil), Tydings Island (Harford), UMCF (Howard), Violette Lock (Montgomery), Washington Monument SP (Washington unless noted otherwise).

*Loons, Grebes, Shearwaters, Pelicans, Cormorants.* The first **Red-throated Loon** of the season was reported on Oct. 9 at PRNAS (Rambo), and inland single sightings were made at Loch Raven on Oct. 29 and Nov. 25 (Simon). A large count of 250 Red-throateds was made at Ocean City on Nov. 30 (Paul O'Brien, Mike O'Brien, Pisano). A **Common Loon** was found at PRNAS on Aug. 28 (L. Lister), and another was last seen at Piney Run on Sept. 8, where it had summered (Ringler). Larger Common Loon counts included 104 at Bellevue on Nov. 2 (Armistead+), and 100 on the Miles and Wye rivers, Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 9 (Reese). Two adult **Pied-billed Grebes** with three young were at E.A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 4 (Dyke), and one adult with four young was there on Aug. 17 (Stasz). Others included 17 at Havre de Grace on Oct. 25-26 (Blom), and 32 at Loch Raven on Nov. 23 (Simon). A **Horned Grebe** was discovered inland at Stanford Pond, Howard County on the early date of Oct. 2 (Farrell). The only **Red-necked Grebe** was found at Hooper Island on Nov. 16 (Mike Welch). An **Eared Grebe** was at Hart-Miller on Sept. 28 and Oct. 5. Up to 5 unidentified petrels were spotted at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 7 (Davidson, Wierenga, Gibson+), and an unidentified tubenose was seen flying north at North Beach a day earlier (Stasz). An Aug. 18 pelagic trip out of Ocean City, led by Brian Patteson, produced some nice sightings including 22 **Cory's Shearwaters**, 31 **Audubon's Shearwaters**, 4 **Greater Shearwaters** and 117 **Wilson's Storm-Petrels**. Five Wilson's Storm-Petrels were spotted off Pt. Lookout, and 9 on the Chesapeake in Somerset County on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz). **Brown Pelicans** included 85 at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff, Stasz), 2 at the Chester River in Chestertown on Aug. 19 (Gruber), an immature at Bellevue, for the first pelican record there, on Sept. 7 (Armistead), a very nice count of 150 at Ocean City on Sept. 14 (Czaplak), 5 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 14 through Nov. 4 (Craig), and 3 at Tangier Sound, Somerset County on Nov. 10 (I. Cornelius). A **Great Cormorant** visited Conowingo this fall, Nov. 3-9 (Blom, Scarpulla), 2 were at Pt. Lookout SP on Nov. 17 (Boxwell, Ernie Willoughby), and as expected, a few were seen by several observers in Ocean City during late November. **Double-crested Cormorants** included 300 at Taylor's and Hooper islands on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and about 500 at Pt. Lookout SP on Sept. 9 (Craig, Cribb). From 1 to 5 Double-cresteds were seen in Washington County between Aug. 24 and Sept. 21 (Stasz+). Other inland sightings included 180 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom), and a late one at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 17 (S. & I. Cornelius).

*Heron, Ibises.* Solitary **American Bitterns** were noted at Chevy Chase on Sept. 18 (Cunningham, Swires), Elliott Island on Sept. 21 (Armistead), Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 1 (Jo & Bob Solem), and at Little Seneca on Oct. 7 (Czaplak, Todd). **Least Bitterns** included 3 at Lilypons on Aug. 4 (Lori Brown), 1 at E.A. Vaughn WMA and 1 at Tanyard on Aug. 17 (Stasz), and 1 at Lilypons on Aug. 25 (Hershberger). Late **Great Blue Herons** included 1 at Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper), and 110 at Conowingo on Nov. 24 (Blom, Scarpulla). **Great Egrets** were numerous and widespread. About 70 were tallied at PWRC on Aug. 2 (Fallon), 60 were checked off at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 was at Beaver Creek Pond, Washington County on Aug. 10 and Aug. 23 (Iliff, Stasz), 11 were at Lilypons on Aug. 11 and Aug. 25 with 2 still present on Oct. 26 (Hershberger, S. Cornelius), 5 were at Schooley

Mill Park on Aug. 23 (Magnusson), 41 were at Blackwater on Aug. 24 (Armistead), 1 was at Smouse Road Pond, Garrett County on Aug. 25 (Stasz), 60 were counted at Assateague on Oct. 27 (Dyke), 1 was at Centennial on Nov. 7 (Farrell), 2 were at Sparrows Point on Nov. 22 (Wilkinson), and 6 were at Deal Island WMA on Nov. 30 (Walbeck, Burkhardt). Jim Stasz tallied 61 **Snowy Egrets** at North Beach on Aug. 27, and a late one was at Bridge Creek Marsh, Wicomico County on Oct. 27 (Ringler). Harry Armistead reported a later **Snowy** at Bellevue on Nov. 4, and seven **Little Blue Herons** at Blackwater on Oct. 26. Two **Tricolored Herons** were in Somerset County on Nov. 10 (I. Cornelius), and **Cattle Egrets** included 94 at Scotland on Sept. 29 (Craig) and 5 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armistead). The latest **Green Heron** was at Hashawha, Carroll County on Nov. 16 (Ringler). Inland **Black-crowned Night-Herons** included one at Crum Pond, Frederick County on Sept. 29 (I. Cornelius, Stasz), and an immature at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 30 (Farrell). A **Yellow-crowned Night-Heron** was at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 19 (Craig+), and an immature was near Lake Elkhorn on Aug. 31 and Sept. 5 (Jim & Carol Wilkinson). Doug Lister reported a **White Ibis** at PRNAS on Sept. 11. A **Glossy Ibis** was near Lloyds on Aug. 7 (Walbeck), 12 visited Chestertown on Aug. 10 (Gruber), and 2 were in Somerset County on Nov. 10 (I. Cornelius). A well documented **Roseate Spoonbill** was at Martin NWR, Somerset County on Aug. 23 (Mike Haramis, Dennis Jorde).

*Swans, Geese.* Early **Tundra Swans** included 6 at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (Armistead), 4 at Centennial on Oct. 27 (Schwarz), 6 at Denton on Oct. 28 (Nuttie), and 5 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig). A **Greater White-fronted Goose** was located at Bradenbaugh, Harford County on Nov. 2 (Dennis Kirkwood). **Snow Geese** began with single birds on Sept. 21 at Blackwater (Armistead), and the same day at Funkstown, where a **Canada ' Snow Goose** hybrid was also found (Boyd, Stasz). Two adult and one immature **Ross' Geese** were sorted out at Blackwater on Nov. 28 (Czaplak, Todd). **Brant** included 35 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 1 (Alex Segarra), 30 around the Miles and Wye Rivers in Talbot and Queen Anne's counties on Nov. 9 (Reese), and 64 at Hart-Miller the same day. Among the numerous summering **Canada Geese** were 58 at California on Aug. 13 (Reese), 250 at Sandy Hook on Aug. 24 (Stasz), 1410 at Blackwater on Aug. 24 (Armistead), and 65 at Meadow Mountain Lake on Aug. 25 (Stasz). A small race Canada was at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 30 (Stasz). An exotic **Egyptian Goose** was identified at Cambridge on Oct. 27 (Ringler), and seen again on Nov. 2 (Dave Mozurkewich).

*Puddle Ducks.* Highs for **Wood Ducks** included 50 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Aug. 24 (John Rini), and 82 at Queenstown on Oct. 12 (Poet). Four **Wood Ducks** were seen on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper), and a **Wood Duck ' Mallard** hybrid was noted at Centennial on Oct. 29 and Nov. 7 (Solems, Farrell). An early **Green-winged Teal** was found at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, and another was at Willow Road, Frederick County on Aug. 30 (Hershberger, Miller). The high for Green-wings was 350 at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (Armistead). The high count for **American Black Ducks** was 230 at Kershner Pond on Nov. 30 (S. & I. Cornelius). **Mallards** included a female with 5 downy young at North Beach on Aug. 6, and 5, including one young, at Meadow Mountain Lake on Aug. 25 (Stasz), and highs of 254 on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23 (Skipper), and 168 at Kershner Pond on Nov. 30 (S. & I. Cornelius). A **Northern Pintail** was at the Harney Road Ponds on Aug. 30 (Hershberger, Miller), and a **Northern Shoveler** was at Centennial on Aug. 4 and seen until Sept. 12 (Elayne & Jeff Metter, Zeichner). The high for shovellers was 197 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Blom). **Gadwalls** included 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 1 at Rocky Gap on Sept. 7 (Czaplak, Todd), 2 at Piney Run on Oct. 5 and 30 there on Nov. 5 (Ringler), and 20 at Tydings Island on Nov. 2 (Webb). A **Eurasian Wigeon** was at the West Ocean City Pond on Nov. 2 (Mozurkewich). **American Wigeon** included 110 in southern Dorchester County on Sept. 21 (Armistead), 40 at Tydings Island on Nov. 2 (Webb), 150 at Loch Raven on Nov. 15 (Simon), 49 at Little Seneca Lake on

Nov. 17 (S. & I. Cornelius), and 55 at Sparrows Point on Nov. 22 (Wilkinson). A male **Falcated Duck** was on the Triadelphia Mill Road Pond, Howard County on Nov. 21 (Wallace).

**Diving Ducks.** **Canvasbacks** began with 14 on the Gunpowder River on Oct. 25 (Blom), and 2000 were reported at the Wildfowl Trust in Queen Anne's County on Nov. 25 (Joe Sebastian). **Redheads** included 2 in Harford County on Oct. 25 (Blom), 6 at Greenbrier SP on Nov. 14 (Weesner), 12 near Grasonville on Nov. 25 (Sebastian), and 14 at Loch Raven on Nov. 15 (Simon). A female **Ring-necked Duck** at Centennial on Sept. 1 (Magnusson+) may have summered locally, whereas 3 at Piney Run on Oct. 12 (Ringler) and 1 on Broadford Lake on Oct. 14 (Skipper) were early migrants. Four hundred were at Loch Raven on Nov. 17 (Simon, Kye Jenkins), and 500 were at Little Seneca Lake on Nov. 24 (Czaplak, Todd). A female **Lesser Scaup** was at Funkstown from Aug. 10 to Sept. 21 and another was at Choptank on Aug. 17 (Stasz). A female **Common Eider** was at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 13 (Dyke), and several observers reported at least 13 Common Eiders there on Nov. 30, along with 2 **King Eiders**. Ocean City remains a good spot to find **Harlequin Ducks** with the first 2 reported there on Nov. 7 (Holbrooke, Gadget), and 3 there on Nov. 24 (David Bridge). Three Harlequins were also spotted at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 3 (Craig, Bishop). An **Oldsquaw** was checked off at Ocean City on the early date of Sept. 10 (Reese), and **Black Scoters** included an immature male at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 19-20 (Czaplak, Todd), an immature or a female at Triadelphia on Nov. 16 (Rod Burley), and 6 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24 (Reese). A drake **Surf Scoter** made an appearance at Centennial on Oct. 23 (Ray & Norma Petersen), and a **White-winged Scoter** was on the Gunpowder River on Nov. 16 (Webb). An early female **Bufflehead** stopped by Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 29 (L. Southworth), 1 was at Centennial on Oct. 3 (Zeichner), and 950 were at the Miles and Wye rivers on Nov. 9 (Reese). Mark Wallace made a nice count of 90 **Hooded Mergansers** near Jennings Chapel Road in Howard County on Nov. 21; 23 were at Beauvue Ponds, St. Mary's County on Nov. 8 (Rambo). **Common Mergansers** were 18 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom), 20 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armistead), and 4 at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 16 (Dalcio Dacol). A **Red-breasted Merganser** was at Ocean City on Sept. 10 (Reese), and **Ruddy Ducks** included 1 at Denton on Aug. 2 (Iliff), 5 at Choptank on Sept. 26 (D. Ford), 1 at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 1 (Stasz), and 2000 at the Wildfowl Trust near Grasonville on Nov. 25 (Sebastian).

**Diurnal Raptors.** See Table 1 for Jim Paulus' fall migration summary from Town Hill. Highs for **Black Vultures** were 72 at Oxford on Sept. 14 (Reese), and 135 at Conowingo on Oct. 13 (Blom). Ian Cornelius reported a lone Black Vulture at Pinto in Allegany County on Nov. 3, and Connie Skipper recorded 15 **Turkey Vultures** at Sang Run in Garrett County on Nov. 13. The high for **Ospreys** was 80 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 18 (I. Cornelius), and late migrants included 1 at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton), 2 at Loch Raven on Nov. 10 (Simon, Terry), and a juvenile at Scotland on Nov. 17 (Craig, Bishop). Seven **Bald Eagles** were tallied inland at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 18 (I. Cornelius), and 2 later at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton). **Northern Harriers** began with solo birds near Lilypons on Aug. 4 (Hershberger), at Broadfording Road, Washington County on Aug. 24 (Stasz), and at Myrtle Grove WMA the same day (John Rini). Early **Sharp-shinned Hawks** were 1 at Upper Marlboro on Aug. 1 (Stasz), and at Wilde Lake on Aug. 4 (Zeichner); 139 migrating Sharpies were checked off at Washington Monument SP on Oct. 26 (I. Cornelius). Single **Cooper's Hawks** were noted on Aug. 8 at American Corner (Engle) and on Aug. 16 at Pt. Lookout (Craig). A very large, immature, and probable female Cooper's was discovered dining on a female House Finch near the Southworth's feeders in Columbia on Nov. 2, and was seen periodically through Nov. 26. **Northern Goshawks** were 1 near South Mountain, Washington County on Oct. 20 (Ecker), 1 near the High Rock fire tower in Garrett County on Nov. 2 (Stasz, Cornelius), 3 at

Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton), and 1 near Price, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 28 (Gruber, Bill Snyder). Highs for the **Broad-winged Hawk** were 3700 at Northeast on Sept. 15 (McCandless), 2000 at Layhill Park, Montgomery County on Sept. 21 (Cooper), and 3812 during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21. About 235 **Red-tailed Hawks** were totaled at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton). A dark phase **Rough-legged Hawk** was noted at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 31 (Stasz), and another Rough-legged was reported at Table Rock on Nov. 2 (Felton). Interesting **Golden Eagles** were 1 at Washington Monument SP on Sept. 13 (I. Cornelius), 1 at Table Rock on Sept. 27 and 2 there on Nov. 2 (Felton), an immature at St. Michaels on Nov. 4 (Armistead), and an immature at Edesville on Nov. 12 (Gruber, Bill Snyder). The high for **American Kestrels** was 24 at Chestertown on Aug. 24 (Gruber). Early **Merlins** of note were singles at Smith Island on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz), at Lilypons on Aug. 20 (Hershberger), at Assateague on Sept. 14 and Black Hill Park on Sept. 21-22 (Czaplak), and an adult male at Eden Brook on Sept. 22 (Southworths). A **Peregrine Falcon** was at Merkle WMA on Sept. 14 (Charlie Muise+), and another at Georgetown Reservoir on Oct. 20 (Dobbins).

**Table 1. Hawk Migration at Town Hill, Allegany County, Fall 1996**

Compiled by Jim Paulus

SPECIES	FIRST	LAST	TOTAL	BEST DAYS
Osprey	8/15	10/14	30	8 on 9/18
Bald Eagle	8/14	11/29	11	3 on 9/5
Mississippi Kite	8/27		1	
Northern Harrier	7/26	12/3	37	8 on 9/26
Sharp-shinned Hawk	9/1	12/2	555	75 on 10/14
Cooper's Hawk	9/1	11/27	95	9 on 10/17
Northern Goshawk	10/24	12/2	5	
Red-shouldered Hawk	9/21	12/2	52	10 on 11/1
Broad-winged Hawk	8/18	10/1	229	65 on 9/18
Red-tailed Hawk	9/18	12/2	761	122 on 11/2
Rough-legged Hawk	11/13		1	
Golden Eagle	10/05	12/2	53	7 on 10/28
American Kestrel	8/21	10/14	84	15 on 9/25
Merlin	9/21	11/29	17	3 on 9/25
Peregrine Falcon	9/30	10/14	11	7 on 10/1
Unidentified			28	
Total	7/26	12/3	1,970	162 on 11/2
77 days	327 hours			

*Pheasants, Rails, Turkeys, Sandhill Cranes.* **Ring-necked Pheasant** reports were few statewide; Jan Reese found one at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24. A few scattered reports of single **Ruffed Grouse** were made from Frederick and Washington counties, and there were only six reports of **Wild Turkeys** from five counties. **Northern Bobwhite** numbers remain low, but Harry and Mary Armistead did report a nice count of 13 from their property at Bellevue on Nov. 16. A **Yellow Rail** was found dead at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 4 (Cribb) for the first known

St. Mary's County report. Pt. Lookout fared better for the **King Rail** noted there on Sept. 21 (Tom Harten), and others were 1 at the Kings Creek Preserve in Talbot County on Sept. 25 (Reese), 5 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Easton on Oct. 13 (Reese). The high for **Clapper Rails** was 15 at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff), and a **Virginia Rail** was discovered at the North Tract of PWRC in Anne Arundel County on Nov. 13 (Fallon). **Soras** began with 1 found dead near Aldino Sod Farms, Harford County on Aug. 2 (Eastman), and another bird at Chestertown on Aug. 29 (Gruber); a later Sora was at Crum Pond, Frederick County on Sept. 29 (I. Cornelius, Stasz). **Common Moorhens** included 8 at Tanyard on Aug. 17 and 19 at Easton on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 29 (Willem Maane). Eighteen **American Coots** were found at Tydings Island on Oct. 2 growing to 200 by Nov. 2 (Webb), 3 were at Piney Run on Oct. 5 (Ringler), and the high of 1200 was at Loch Raven on Nov. 18-23 (Simon, Landers). Connie Skipper totaled approximately 1,171 coots on Deep Creek Lake on Nov. 23. Dave Mozurkewich reported ten **Sandhill Cranes** attracted to the vicinity of the pens of the captive Sandhills at PWRC on Nov. 24-26.

*Plovers, Oystercatchers, Avocets.* Hart-Miller hosted **Black-bellied Plovers** with 2 on Aug. 3 and 43 on Sept. 14, down to 1 on Nov. 16 (Scarpulla+). Others included 1 at Rocky Gap on Sept. 6 and 7 at PRNAS on Sept. 11 (Listers). There were several reports for **American Golden-Plovers** including 1 in breeding plumage at Tydings Island on Aug. 16 (Blom), 1 at the Oakwood Turf Farm on Aug. 25 (Dyke) and Sept. 9 (Jenion), 7 at PRNAS on Sept. 11 (L. Lister), 2 near Route 228, Charles County on Sept. 12 (Rambo), 28 at the John Brown Road Sod Farm, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 13 (Stasz), a juvenile west of Lisbon on Sept. 14 (J. & C. Wilkinson), 44 at Hart-Miller on the same day (Scarpulla+), 14 at Hains Point on Sept. 17 (Janni), and 67 near Lilypons on Oct. 14 (Hershberger). Gene Scarpulla tallied 300 **Semipalmated Plovers** at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, and 175 **Killdeer** there on Aug. 17. About 115 **Killdeer** were near Lilypons on Sept. 8 (Helen Horrocks, I. Cornelius). Eight **American Oystercatchers** were at Smith Island on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz), and **American Avocets** included 6 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, 2 there on Aug. 17-18, and 1 at Ridge on Aug. 9 (Craig).

*Tringine Sandpipers, Godwits.* The high for **Greater Yellowlegs** was 65 at Centreville on Aug. 20 (Poet), and for **Lesser Yellowlegs**, 1310 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3. Thirty-eight **Lessers** were checked off at the Kings Creek Preserve in Talbot County on Sept. 25 (Reese), and eight **Solitary Sandpipers** were totaled on Aug. 3 at Oakwood Turf Farm (Dyke). An eastern race **Willet** was noted at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3, as was 1 western race; 6 westerns were there on Aug. 11. A juvenile western **Willet** visited North Beach on Aug. 8 (Iliff, Stasz). Scarpulla turned in a nice count of 36 **Spotted Sandpipers** from Hart-Miller on Aug. 17. **Upland Sandpipers** included 1 at Wye Island, Queen Anne's County on Aug. 3 (Roger Eastland), 15 at the Washington County Airport and 19 at the Frederick County Airport on Aug. 10 (Iliff, Stasz), 31 at PRNAS on Aug. 22 (Lister), 1 on Sept. 12-13 at Oakwood Farms (Jenion), and 1 at Hardy Road, west of Lisbon, on Sept. 15 (Darius & Paula Ecker+). Four **Whimbrels** were checked off during the Aug. 18 pelagic trip from Ocean City (Patteson+), another stopped by PRNAS on Sept. 2, and unfortunately, one was hit by an airplane there on Sept. 25 (Rambo). A **Marbled Godwit** turned up at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, another was at Tilghman Island on Aug. 18 (Reese), and one rested at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga).

*Calidridine Sandpipers.* Three to four **Red Knots** visited Hart-Miller this season between Sept. 7th and 14th, and the high for **Sanderlings** was also at Hart-Miller with 115 on Sept. 28, as was the high for **Semipalmated Sandpipers** with a nice count of 5065 present on Aug. 3 (Scarpulla+). Nineteen **Sanderlings** were at PRNAS on Nov. 6 (Rambo). **Western Sandpipers** began with 2 at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Dyke), 145 were at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 6 juveniles were at Ridgely on Sept. 13 (Stasz), and 9 were at Blackwater on Nov. 14



(Armistead). Forty **Least Sandpipers** were at the Oakwood Farm site on Aug. 10 (Dyke), 455 roamed Hart-Miller on Aug. 17 and 11 were there Nov. 9. It was a good season for **White-rumped Sandpipers** including an early one at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Jenion); 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, with 19 there on Sept. 14; 1 at Spring Ridge, St. Mary's County on Aug. 14 (Sue Schneider); and 2 at Tanyard on Sept. 1, one at Ridgely on Sept. 13, and 1 at North Beach on Sept. 20 (Stasz). Several **Baird's Sandpipers** were registered this fall including 1 at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 15 and Aug. 22 (Jenion), 4 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, 3 there on Aug. 17, and 1 at Funkstown and 1 at Cumberland on Aug. 24 (Stasz). **Pectoral Sandpipers** of note were 40 on Aug. 11 at Oakwood Farm (Jenion), 117 near Lilypons on Sept. 8 (Hershberger), 47 at John Brown Road Turf Farm, Queen Anne's County on Sept. 13 (Stasz), 261 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 14, and 45 at Hains Point on Sept. 17 (Janni). **Purple Sandpipers** showed up at Ocean City on Nov. 7 (Holbrooke, Gadget), and **Dunlins** arrived with 19 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 28, 1 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 10 (Craig, Cribb), and 7 at Tydings Island on Oct. 11 (Webb). Later Dunlins included 155 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 9, and 425 at Blackwater on Nov. 14 (Armistead). Among the **Stilt Sandpipers** were 4 at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Dyke), 1 at Tydings Island on Aug. 4 (Blom), an adult at North Beach on Aug. 8 and 18 there on Aug. 9 (Iliff, Stasz), 154 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 14, and 2 at Blackwater on Sept. 21 (Armistead). It was a good season for **Buff-breasted Sandpipers**; some of the sightings were 12 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 31, 19 there on Sept. 7, and 7 there on Oct. 5; 6 near Lilypons on Sept. 8 (Horrocks, I. Cornelius); and 1 at Pleasant Plains Turf Farm, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 11 (Walbeck).

*Dowitchers, Snipe, Phalaropes.* A **Short-billed Dowitcher** was at Oakwood Farm on Aug. 1 (Dyke), and others of note were 325 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 2 at Tydings Island on Aug. 21 (Webb), and 2 at Easton on Oct. 13 (Reese). **Long-billed Dowitchers** included a juvenile at West Ocean City on Sept. 15 and 5 juveniles at Blackwater on Sept. 22 (Czaplak), 3 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 28; and 1 at Manadier Road, Talbot County on Oct. 11 (Iliff, Stasz). **Common Snipe** began with 1 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18, 1 at North Beach on Aug. 20 (Stasz), and 6 at Harney Road Ponds on Aug. 28 (Miller, I. Cornelius). One to three **Wilson's Phalaropes** were seen off-and-on at Hart-Miller from Aug. 11 through Sept. 21, and 36 **Red-necked Phalaropes** were seen at the Baltimore Canyon during the Aug. 18 pelagic trip (Patteson+). A **Red Phalarope** was also notched on the pelagic trip.

*Jaegers, Gulls.* The Aug. 18 pelagic trip produced a juvenile **Long-tailed Jaeger**, and an adult Long-tailed was reported at Lilypons on Sept. 7 (Mary Gustafson, Bruce Peterjohn), after Hurricane Fran hit the coast with full force on Sept. 6. An unidentified jaeger was spotted off Sandy Point SP on Sept. 7 as well (Gail MacKiernan, Cooper). **Laughing Gulls** included 800 at Jackson Road Pond, Caroline County on Aug. 7 (Stasz), 200 at Alpha Ridge Park on Aug. 11 (Magnusson, Solems), 500 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, 3500 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 17 (Stasz), 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 7 (Czaplak, Todd), 500 at PRNAS on Oct. 9 (Rambo), 2500 at Easton on Oct. 11 (Iliff, Stasz), 1500 at PWRC on Nov. 10 (Ringler), and 3 at Mt. Pleasant, Howard County on Nov. 15 (Solems). An adult **Franklin's Gull** was reported at Hains Point on Sept. 17 (Janni), another was noted at Back River on Oct. 20 (Scarpulla), and 2, a first-winter and a third-winter, were at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 28 (Stasz). **Bonaparte's Gulls** were unusually early with 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 17 (L. Lister), 2 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 7, 20 at Centennial on Oct. 13 (Zeichner, Chestem), and 6 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom). Highs for **Ring-billed Gulls** were 2500 at Trappe on Oct. 2 (Reese), and 2500 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom). A **California Gull** was reported at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Blom, Scarpulla), and another at Schoolhouse Pond on Oct. 30 (Stasz). A large congregation of 600 **Herring Gulls** was noted at Gunpowder River on Oct. 25 (Blom). **Lesser Black-backed Gull** sightings remain numerous including 7 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18, 1 at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), 1 at Tilghman Island on Oct. 12 (Reese), and 1 at Conowingo on Oct. 25 (Blom). **Great Black-backed Gulls** numbered in the hundreds at various locations throughout



the eastern part of the state including 300 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 6 (Cribb), 1000 at Sandy Point SP on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), and 913 at Hart-Miller on Sept. 21.

*Kittiwake, Terns, Black Skimmer.* After a rainstorm with thirty-mile-per-hour winds, an adult **Black-legged Kittiwake** was found at Seneca on Oct. 19 (Czaplak, Todd). **Gull-billed Terns** included 2 at Nanticoke on Aug. 29 (Brodericks), 2 at Vienna on Sept. 6 (Dyke), 1 at North Beach on Sept. 7 (Stasz), and 3 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 8 (Cribb). Sixteen **Caspian Terns** were at Chestertown on Aug. 10 (Gruber), 470 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 17, 8 at Triadelphia on Sept. 6 (J. Solem, Jay Sheppard), 3 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 18 (Czaplak, Todd), and 43 at Tydings Island on Oct. 2 (Webb). **Royal Terns** included 3 at Denton on Sept. 21 (K. Plinke), and 1 at Smith Island on Nov. 9 (I. Cornelius). **Sandwich Terns** were not to be left out with 1 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 1 and 2 there on Sept. 9 (Cribb), an adult and 2 juveniles at Ocean City on Aug. 17 (Czaplak, Todd), and a solo bird at North Beach on Sept. 7 (Stasz). A **Roseate Tern** was identified at North Beach on Sept. 7 (Stasz). **Common Terns** included 2000 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 8 (Craig), 398 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 7 (Robert Hilton), 2 at Tydings Island on Sept. 12 (Blom), and 1 at Lake Elkhorn during a storm on Oct. 8 (Wilkinson). A large concentration of 811 **Forster's Terns** was at Hart-Miller on Aug. 18, 1 was at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 6 (Czaplak, Todd), and an amazing 2000 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 4 (Cribb). A nice tally of 248 **Least Terns** was enjoyed at Hart-Miller on Aug. 11, and the last 6 were there on Sept. 14. Eight **Bridled Terns** at Baltimore Canyon pleased the Aug. 18 pelagic birders out of Ocean City. **Sooty Terns** were numerous due to weather conditions with 1 at North Beach on Sept. 6 and Sept. 7 (Stasz), 2 adults and a juvenile at Little Seneca Lake on Sept. 6 (Czaplak, Todd), 2 at Ocean City the same day (Jim Biggs), 13 near Sandy Point SP also on Sept. 6 (Davidson, Wierenga), an adult at Bellevue on Sept. 7 (Armistead), and 2 near Tilghman on Sept. 7 (Reese). **Black Terns** were also represented with 1 at PRNAS on Aug. 5 (Rambo) and 3 there on Sept. 12 (Craig, Cribb), 29 at Assateague on Aug. 17 and 20 at Little Seneca on Sept. 6 (Czaplak), and 2 on the Chester River, Chestertown on Sept. 7 (Gruber). Bad weather moved a **Black Skimmer** to PRNAS on Sept. 6 (Rambo).

*Doves, Cuckoos, Owls.* The high for **Rock Doves** was 410 at Conowingo on Nov. 24 (Blom, Scarpulla). For **Mourning Doves**, 150 were at Cornfield Harbor Road, St. Mary's County on Aug. 19 (Craig, Cribb, Zyla), and 200 were at Gorman Road, Howard County on Oct. 20 (J. Solem). Late **Black-billed Cuckoos** were 3 in Howard County during the Fall Count on Sept. 21 (McClures+), 1 in Salisbury on Sept. 22 (Brodericks), and 1 at Violettes Lock on Sept. 28 (Todd Day). A **Yellow-billed Cuckoo** was noted at Dameron on the late date of Oct. 7 (Craig). Jan Reese found a pair of **Great Horned Owls**, with fledgling young begging for food, in the Deep Neck area of Talbot County on Oct. 20, a rather odd date. Norm and Fran Saunders and Sam Dyke had a brief, but never-the-less fine sighting of a **Snowy Owl** at the Ocean City inlet on Nov. 29. **Short-eared Owls** were 1 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 9, and 2 at Bolling AFB, DC on Nov. 22 (Larry Cartwright).

*Caprimulgids, Swifts, Hummingbirds.* **Common Nighthawks** got started with 1 at Ridge on Aug. 13 (Anne Bishop), 1 at Centennial on Aug. 17 (Wilkinson), and 3 in Bel Air on Aug. 18 (Webb). They ended with 1 in Eldersburg on Oct. 21 (Dave Harvey). A **Chuck-will's-widow** was near Bellevue on Sept. 6 (Armistead), and a **Whip-poor-will** was still calling at Street on Sept. 11 (Deborah Bowers). Another **Whip-poor-will** was reported near Federalsburg on Sept. 19 (Glime). High counts for **Chimney Swifts** were 200 at Funkstown on Sept. 21 (Stasz, Ed Boyd), 1000 at PRNAS on Sept. 30 (Rambo), and 350 at Centreville on Oct. 8 (Reese). Running a bit late were the 135 swifts at Conowingo on Oct. 13 (Blom), 1 in Eldersburg on Oct. 14 (Ringler), 4 in Columbia on Oct. 16 (Wilkinson), 1 in Salisbury on Oct. 17 (Lawler),

and 13 at Greensboro on Oct. 18 (Scudder). The last **Ruby-throated Hummingbirds** were 1 in a Salisbury yard on Oct. 7 (Brodericks), 2 at Greensboro on Oct. 8 (Scudder), and 2 at Kent Island on Oct. 10 (Roger Eastman). An immature *Selasphorus* sp. hummingbird was reported at Chevy Chase on Nov. 4 (Mary Ann Berberich) and was present to at least Nov. 18.

*Woodpeckers, Flycatchers.* A nice count of 10 **Red-headed Woodpeckers** was turned in at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 13 (Frank Witebski); one was seen earlier at Rock Creek Park on Aug. 29 (Dobbins). Among the numerous **Red-bellied Woodpeckers** was a report of an albinistic bird at Baltimore on Oct. 20 (Ahab Sanford). **Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers** began with single sightings on Sept. 21 in Columbia (J. & C. Wilkinson), Catholic Church Road, Washington County (Stasz, Boyd), and Catoctin Basin, Frederick County (S. & I. Cornelius). A nice total of 12 of the sapsuckers was made on Tilghman Island on Oct. 6 (Reese). Thirty **Northern Flickers** were reported at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 9 (Cribb), and 21 **Pileated Woodpeckers** were notched during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21. Solitary sightings of the always nice-to-find **Olive-sided Flycatcher** were made at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3 (Ringler, Kulp), Turkey Point on Aug. 18 (McCandless), Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Aug. 24 (Hershberger), Patuxent River Park, Anne Arundel County on Sept. 8 (Fallon), and at Eden Brook on Sept. 13 (D. Southworth). The last **Eastern Wood-Pewees** were 1 in southern Howard County on Oct. 9 (Ebert), the last one banded at Chestertown on Oct. 7, 1 in Somerset County on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), and 1 at Dameron on Oct. 22 (Craig). Single **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were at the PWRC banding station on Aug. 8 (Dawson), at Kitt's Point, St. Mary's County on Aug. 13 (Craig), banded at Chestertown on Aug. 17, 1 at Salisbury on Aug. 28 (Jenion), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 4 (Dobbins), 1 at Black Hill Park on Sept. 20 (Czaplak), 1 in Columbia on Sept. 25 (Wilkinson), and banded at Chestertown on Oct. 13. Two **Yellow-bellied Flycatchers** were banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24 as was a late "Traill's" Flycatcher the same day. An **Acadian Flycatcher** was feeding young in a nest at Dameron on Aug. 17 (Craig), and a late one was at Black Hill Park on Sept. 22 (Czaplak). An **Alder Flycatcher** was seen at Cherry Creek on Aug. 18 (Skipper, Pope). Interesting **Willow Flycatchers** were 1 at Black Hill Park on Sept. 20, identified by call (Czaplak), and another reported at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Sept. 29 (Hershberger). A **Least Flycatcher** was at Funkstown on Aug. 10 (Iliff, Stasz), a high of 18 **Eastern Phoebe**s was at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 12 (Craig, Bishop), and a late **Great Crested Flycatcher** was at Denton on Sept. 24 (Nuttle). The high for **Eastern Kingbirds** was 30 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 25, and the last one was there on Sept. 22 (Reese).

*Horned Larks, Swallows, Corvids.* Lilypons was the location for the most **Horned Larks** reported, with 250 on Nov. 24 (Cooper). Late **Purple Martins** included 1 at Hallmark in southern Howard County on Sept. 22 (Ebert), and 7 at Bellevue the same day (Armistead), while highs of 200 at Girdletree and 300 at E. A. Vaughn WMA on Aug. 17 (Stasz), and 300 in Harford County on Aug. 23 (Mark Johnson) were notable. Highs for **Tree Swallows** were 500 at Lilypons on Aug. 12 (Hershberger), 700 in Chestertown on Aug. 16 (Gruber), 700 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), and 2500 at Conowingo on Oct. 19 (Blom). Later **Tree Swallows** were 10 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 3 (Reese), and 3 at South River Farm Park, Anne Arundel County on Nov. 6 (Smith). Good counts for the **Northern Rough-winged Swallow** were 500 at Chestertown on Aug. 8 (Gruber), and 300 at Dam #3 in Washington County on Aug. 24 (Stasz), while the highs for **Bank Swallows** were 1000 at Hart-Miller on Aug. 3 and Aug. 17 (Scarpulla+), and 800 at Hurlock on Aug. 18 (Stasz). Two **Bank Swallows** were at Trout Run, Garrett County on Sept. 15 (Skipper), and the last report at Hart-Miller was on Oct. 12 (Blom, Scarpulla). Sam Dyke reported a **Cliff Swallow** in Wicomico County on Aug. 10. Bob Ringler noted the last **Barn Swallow** at New Windsor on Oct. 13; 1 was at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 15 (Farrell, Coskren). Jan Reese listed 750 **Blue Jays** at Tilghman Island on Oct. 6, and

Jo and Bob Solem checked off 275 **Fish Crows** at Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 17. There were 39 migrant **Common Ravens** noted in five and a half hours at the High Rock fire tower in Garrett County on Nov. 2 (Stasz, I. Cornelius); 1 reported at Beallsville, Montgomery County on Nov. 3 (Nancy McClintock) was unusual for the Piedmont.

*Nuthatches, Wrens, Kinglets, Gnatcatchers.* The first **Red-breasted Nuthatches** were 2 at New Germany SP on Aug. 25 (Stasz), and 2 flyovers at Chestertown on Aug. 29 (Gruber), but in general, they were scarce this fall. Late **House Wrens** were 1 at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 23 (Ecker), 1 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 3 (Jean Crump), and 2 at Lilypons on Nov. 24 (Cooper). A **Winter Wren** was banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 20, 2 were banded at Chestertown on Sept. 24, and 7 visited at Black Hill Park on Nov. 1 (Czaplak). Hard-to-find **Sedge Wrens** were 1 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 3 (Craig), 2 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliif, Stasz), 1 at Myrtle Grove WMA on Oct. 13 (Frank Witebski), and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 30 (Pisano, M. & P. O'Brien). **Marsh Wrens** included 2 during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21, 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 24 (Dobbins), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 3, 1 at Little Seneca Lake on Oct. 18-20 and Nov. 15 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 at Sands Road, Anne Arundel County on Oct. 31 (Osenton), and 1 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16. Two **Golden-crowned Kinglets** were banded early at Cherry Creek on Sept. 21, and 1 was at Denton on the same day (Nuttie). High tallies for **Ruby-crowned Kinglets** were about 30 at Dameron on Oct. 7 and Oct. 13 (Craig), and 35 at Tilghman on Oct. 12 (Reese). Three lingering **Blue-gray Gnatcatchers** were at Neavitt on Sept. 29 (Reese), and another was reported even later at Cabin Creek Landing, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 23 (Sebastian).

*Thrushes, Mimids, Pipits.* Paul Pisano reported a high of 80 **Eastern Bluebirds** at Lilypons on Oct. 27. The last reports for the **Veery** were single birds in Frederick County on Oct. 12 (Hershberger), banded at Chestertown on Oct. 13 (Gruber), and at PWRC on Oct. 17 (Dawson). **Gray-cheeked Thrushes** included 1 calling at Rock Creek Park on Sept 1 (Cooper), 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 9, 4 banded at Chestertown, 1 on Oct. 1, 2 on Oct. 5, and one on Oct. 15. Wilbur Hershberger turned up a **Swainson's Thrush** at the Audrey Carroll Audubon Sanctuary site on Aug. 31 as well as two later Swainson's at the water facility also in Frederick County on Oct. 20; another was found on Oct. 20 at PWRC (Dawson). **Hermit Thrushes** began with 1 banded very early on Sept. 5 at Cherry Creek that was possibly a local breeder, 1 at Catoctin Flying Park, Frederick County on Sept. 21 (I. Cornelius), and 2 at Pemberton Park, Salisbury on Sept. 26 (Jenion); 18 were banded at Chestertown on Oct. 27 (Gruber). Two **Wood Thrushes**, with one of them recently fledged, were found at Dameron on Aug. 17 (Craig). A late Wood Thrush was found in Frederick County on Oct. 12 (Hershberger). The high for **American Robins** was about 500 at Easton on Sept. 5 and about 3000 there going to the Holiday Inn roost on the evening of Oct. 26 (Reese). About 40 **Gray Catbirds** were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 30 (Craig, Cribb), and a late one was at Allview, Howard County on Nov. 30 (Eva Sunnell). Solo **Brown Thrashers** were still present at Schooley Mill Park on Nov. 11 (Daryl Olson), at Pt. Lookout on Nov. 12 (Craig), and at Bellevue on Nov. 23 (Armisteads). Three **American Pipits** were located at UMCF on Sept. 21 (McClures, Clyde Robinette, Romayne Smith), another was at Harney Road Ponds on Sept. 29 (I. Cornelius, Stasz), and 120 were near Lilypons on Nov. 9 (Hershberger).

*Waxwings, Shrike, Vireos.* Four **Cedar Waxwing** fledglings were in a yard at Salisbury on Aug. 13 (Jenion), and the highs for waxwings were 975 at Bellevue on Oct. 27 (Armistead+), 1000 at Tilghman Island on Nov. 10 (Reese), and 260 at Town Hill on Nov. 11 (Czaplak, Todd). A **Loggerhead Shrike** visited Cap Stine Road in Frederick County from Sept. 1 through Nov. 22 (Hershberger+). A late **White-eyed Vireo** was reported from the PWRC banding station on Oct. 17 (Dawson), and the first **Solitary Vireos** were 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 14

(Osenton), and 2 at Salisbury on Sept. 20 (Jenion). Late sightings were 1 at Belmont, Howard County on Nov. 10 (Michael Bowen), and at Pelot Sanctuary, Caroline County on Nov. 12 (Poet). Late **Yellow-throated Vireos** were 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 29 (Osenton), and 2 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 12 (Craig, Bishop). Two **Warbling Vireos** were at Dameron on Sept. 10 (Craig), 1 was at Salisbury on Sept. 20 (Dyke+), another was at Black Hill Park on Sept. 20 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 was at Phoenix on Oct. 11 (Simon). A **Philadelphia Vireo** was reported at Meadowside Nature Center, Montgomery County on Sept. 8 (Rick Sussman), as was 1 at Salisbury on Sept. 18 (Jenion). A juvenile **Red-eyed Vireo**, begging for food from two adults, was seen at Queenstown on Sept. 2 (Poet), 20 were checked off at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 30 (Craig, Cribb), 1 was at Bennie Duncan Road, Frederick County on Oct. 26 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 1 was at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24 (Reese).

*Vermivora and Parula Warblers.* Jim Stasz reported the first **Blue-winged Warbler** at Mt. Nebo WMA, Garrett County on Aug. 25; another was banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 31. Late Blue-wings were at Salisbury on Sept. 18 (Jenion), at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 20 (L. Lister), at Jennings Chapel Road, Howard County on Sept. 21 (Wallace), and at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Clive Harris). **Golden-winged Warblers** included 1 banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 23 and another banded on Sept. 3, 1 at Eden Brook on Sept. 14 (Osenton), and 1 near Schooley Mill Park on Sept. 21 (Magnusson). **Brewster's Warblers** were 1 at Pt. Lookout on Aug. 14 and a female feeding a male Blue-winged at Dameron on Aug. 25 (Craig), 1 at Street on Aug. 29 (Bowers), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 8 (Harris), and 1 at Wilde Lake on Sept. 21 (Newmans). Early **Tennessee Warblers** were one banded at Cherry Creek on Aug. 31, another at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and 1 at Hallmark Road, Howard County on Sept. 1 (Ebert). A late Tennessee was reported from the PWRC banding station on Oct. 17 (Dawson). Solo **Orange-crowned Warblers** were at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 21 (Ott), at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 28 and at Dameron on Sept. 30 (Craig, Bob Boxwell), at Lake Elkhorn on Oct. 3 (D. Ecker), at Black Hill Park on Oct. 13 (Czaplak, Todd), and at PWRC on Oct. 15 (Dawson). **Nashville Warblers** included 1 at Turkey Point, Cecil County on Aug. 18 (McCandless), 1 at Nanticoke on Aug. 29 (Brodericks), the last one banded at Chestertown on Oct. 13 (Gruber), and at PWRC on Oct. 21 (Dawson). Late were a **Northern Parula** at Phoenix on Oct. 11 (Simon), 3 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 12 (Craig, Bishop), and 1 at PWRC on Oct. 20 (Dawson).

*Dendroica Warblers.* An early **Yellow Warbler** was seen at Chestertown on Aug. 1 (Gruber). **Chestnut-sided Warblers** got started with 1 at Tilghman Island on Aug. 11 (Reese), and 1 was a little tardy at the North Tract of PWRC in Anne Arundel County on Oct. 13 (Rod Burley). Twenty **Magnolia Warblers** were listed at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 was found at PWRC on Oct. 28 (Dawson). **Cape May Warblers** included 1 in Wicomico County on Aug. 29 (Dyke), 1 in Dorchester County on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 1 on Sept. 2 at Cherry Creek, 8 at Black Hill Park on Sept. 30 (Czaplak), and a male at Blackwater on Oct. 26 (Armistead). **Black-throated Blue Warblers** began with 1 on Aug. 25 at Wilde Lake (Odermatt), 1 the same day at Daniels (Stirrat), and 20 at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd). The last three banded at Chestertown were on Oct. 21 (Gruber), 1 was at PWRC on Oct. 22 (Dawson), and 1 at Brookside Gardens, Montgomery County on Oct. 23 (Sussman). Early for **Yellow-rumped Warblers** were 2 at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 3 at Assateague on Sept. 15 and 1 at Black Hill on Sept. 20 (Czaplak, Todd); the high was a modest 150 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 24 (Craig). Patty Craig found 2 **Black-throated Green Warblers** at Dameron on Aug. 17, and Jan Reese found a late one at Tilghman on Nov. 3. Harry and Mary Armistead and family checked off an early **Blackburnian Warbler** at Bellevue on Aug. 11, and a late one was at PWRC on Oct. 17 (Dawson). A **Yellow-throated Warbler** was located at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), 2 were listed during the Howard County Fall Count on Sept. 21, and 1 was at



Pennyfield the same day (Todd Day). A **Prairie Warbler** was at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 3 (Craig), and **Palm Warblers** included 20 at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd) and the high of 4 westerns banded at Cherry Creek on Oct. 3. Late Palms were at Alpha Ridge Park on Nov. 9 (Schwarz) and at Ashton on Nov. 10 (Daryl Olson), and a yellow was at Morgan Run NEA, Carroll County on Nov. 11 (Ringler). The extremes this fall for the **Blackpoll Warbler** were 1 at Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and 1 at PWRC on Nov. 6 (Dawson). Single **Cerulean Warblers**, increasingly tough to find, were at McKeldin Area, Patapsco Valley SP in Carroll County on Sept. 14 (Dave Harvey), and at Henryton on Sept. 15 (Eckers, Stirrat+).

*Other Warblers.* The high count of **Black-and-white Warblers** was 20 at Pt. Lookout on Sept. 9 (Craig, L. Lister+), and the latest were 1 at Sandy Point SP on Nov. 16 (Cooper) and 1 at Sycamore Landing on Nov. 28 (Howard Elitzak). An early **American Redstart** was at Chestertown on Aug. 1 (Gruber), 39 passed Taylors Island on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and a nice 200 were tallied at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd). The latest redstart banded at Chestertown was on Oct. 13. The last **Worm-eating Warbler** banded was at PWRC on Oct. 2, as was the last **Ovenbird** on Oct. 27 (Dawson). Late **Louisiana Waterthrushes** were near Thurmont on Aug. 24 (Hershberger), and at Tilghman Island on Sept. 1 (Reese). **Kentucky Warbler** reports were scarce; one was still at Rockburn Branch Park on Sept. 21 (Ott). **Connecticut Warblers** included 1 on Sept. 8 at Piney Run (Ringler, Terry), 1 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 8 (Clive Harris), 2 at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd), 1 near Laurel on Sept. 15 (Osenton), 1 at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary on Oct. 13 (S. & I. Cornelius), 1 the same day at PWRC (Dawson), and 2 at Jennings Chapel Road on Sept. 21 (Wallace). **Mourning Warblers** were not to be left out, including single reports at PWRC on Aug. 18 (Dawson), not far from Lake Kittamaquidi on Sept. 15 (Zeichner), at Salisbury on Sept. 18 (Jenion), at Black Hill Park on Sept. 21 (Czaplak), banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 24, and at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 30 (Janni). Bob Ringler added up a total of 19 **Common Yellowthroats** on a swing through Morgan Run NEA, Carroll County on Sept. 21, and 2 were late at Mount Pleasant in Howard County on Nov. 15 (Solems). A late **Hooded Warbler** was seen at Cherry Creek on Sept. 21 (Skipper, Pope). A **Wilson's Warbler** showed up early at Assateague on Aug. 28 (Jenion). Stasz and party found a **Canada Warbler** at Essex Skypark, Baltimore County on Aug. 10, and a **Yellow-breasted Chat** was found at Centennial on Sept. 21 (Mike Leumas).

*Tanagers, Cardinaline Finches, Towhees.* A couple of **Summer Tanagers** were lagging behind with single birds at Pt. Lookout and at Dameron on Sept. 30 (Craig, Cribb), and a late **Scarlet Tanager** was at the Frederick County water facility on Oct. 13 (Hershberger). Four **Rose-breasted Grosbeaks** were banded on the early date of Aug. 21 at Cherry Creek, and highs were 20 at Rock Creek Park on Sept. 15 (Cooper) and 20 at PRNAS on Sept. 24 (Rambo). A late Rose-breasted was at Phoenix on Oct. 16 (Simon). The high for **Blue Grosbeaks** was 12 at Turkey Point, Cecil County on Aug. 18 (McCandless), and the latest was at Alpha Ridge Park on Oct. 13 (Zeichner, Chestern). Twenty-two **Indigo Buntings** were banded at Chestertown on Sept. 30 (Gruber), and a late 1 was at Lilypons on Oct. 27 (Pisano). Single **Dickcissels** were at Bywater Road, Anne Arundel County on Aug. 1 (Iliff), at PRNAS on Aug. 3 (Lister+), an adult male near Kibler Road, Caroline County on Aug. 7 (Stasz), and single migrants were at Assateague on Sept. 26 (Dyke), at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 19 (Czaplak, Todd), and at Mitchellville on Nov. 23 (Evans). Patty Craig was on hand at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 when 21 **Eastern Towhees** came through.

*Sparrows, Juncos, Longspurs, Snow Buntings.* High counts of **Chipping Sparrows** were 40 at Greenfield Road, Frederick County on Oct. 14 (Hershberger), and 30 at Dameron on Nov. 8 (Craig). A **Clay-colored Sparrow** was at Hughes Hollow on Nov. 10 (Czaplak, Todd), and a late **Vesper Sparrow** was at PRNAS on Nov. 13 (Rambo). Jim Stasz reported an imma-

ture **Lark Sparrow** near Kibler Road, Caroline County on Aug. 7, and another was at Assateague on Sept. 14 (Czaplak, Todd) and seen again there on Sept. 21 (Brodericks+). **Savannah Sparrow** highs were 50 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), and 40 at Long Neck Road, St. Mary's County on Nov. 17 (Craig, Bishop). An **Ipswich** race was reported at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16 (Scarpulla, Terry). Single migrant **Grasshopper Sparrows** were at Gateway Park, Howard County on Oct. 14 (Wilkinson, J. Solem) and at PWRC on Oct. 19 (Dawson). A hard-to-find **Henslow's Sparrow** was present at Deal Island WMA on Sept. 27 (Jenion). **Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrows** included 1 at Irish Grove WS on Oct. 12 (Iliff, Stasz), 1 at Blackwater on Nov. 11 (Dalcio Dacol), and 1 at Assateague on Nov. 30 (Pisano, M. O'Brien). Thirty **Seaside Sparrows**, many juveniles, were tallied at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff, Stasz), and highs for **Song Sparrows** were 150 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig), and 104 at Hart-Miller on Nov. 16 (Scarpulla, Terry). More and more birders are watching for **Lincoln's Sparrows**, and this season's included one banded at Cherry Creek on Sept. 15, 5 at Hughes Hollow on Oct. 14 (Czaplak, Todd), and 1 at the North Tract, PWRC, Anne Arundel County on Oct. 27 (Fallon). **Swamp Sparrows** included 35 at Pemberton Park on Sept. 24 (Jenion), 34 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 (Blom, Scarpulla), 45 at Lilypons on Oct. 27 (Pisano), and 30 at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig). The first **White-throated Sparrow** was at Eden Brook on Sept. 14 (Southworths), another was at Pemberton Park on Sept. 20 (Jenion), the first one banded at Cherry Creek was on Sept. 19, and an incredible 1700 were tallied at Pt. Lookout on Oct. 29 (Craig). An immature **White-crowned Sparrow** appeared at the Oakland Mills garden plots in eastern Columbia on Oct. 4 (Wilkinson). The reliable Lilypons area yielded 5 **Lapland Longspurs** on Nov. 17 (I. & S. Cornelius), and 15 were near there on Nov. 24 (Cooper). **Snow Buntings** included 1 at Hart-Miller on Oct. 20 and 236 there on Nov. 23, and 20 near Lilypons on Nov. 24 (Cooper).

*Icterines*, Purple Finches, Red Crossbills, Goldfinches. **Bobolinks** this season included an early one at Smith Island on Aug. 4 (Iliff, Stasz), 500 at Chestertown on Aug. 24 (Gruber), 300 at Taylors Island and 500 at Tanyard on Sept. 1 (Stasz), and a late one at Audrey Carroll Sanctuary on Oct. 19 (Smith). Highs for **Red-winged Blackbirds** were 400 at Blackwater on Aug. 24 (Armistead), 1000 at Tanyard on Oct. 11 (Stasz, Iliff), and 5000 at Scotland on Nov. 12 (Craig). Patty Craig and Anne Bishop listed 70 **Eastern Meadowlarks** at Scotland on Oct. 26. An adult male **Yellow-headed Blackbird** was reported at Route 301 just north of Route 50, Queen Anne's County on Nov. 30 (Paul DuMont), and an early **Rusty Blackbird** at Masser Road, Frederick County on Sept. 21 (Hershberger). Another early Rusty was seen at Cherry Creek on Oct. 6 (Skipper). About 100 **Boat-tailed Grackles** were at Smith Island on Aug. 3 (Iliff, Stasz), and an amazing 25,000 **Common Grackles** were flying over Frederick on Aug. 29 (Ringer). Sadly, 300 **Brown-headed Cowbirds** were noted at Oakwood Farm on Sept. 13 (Stasz). Solo late **Orchard Orioles** were at Bumpy Oak Road, Charles County on Sept. 2 (Jett, Stasz), and at Lake Elkhorn on Sept. 19 (Ecker). Dave Czaplak and Mary Ann Todd enjoyed a nice tally of 100 **Baltimore Orioles** at Assateague on Sept. 14, and checked off 6 **Purple Finches** at Black Hill Park on Nov. 1. Jay Sheppard reported 2 **Red Crossbills** at Patuxent River State Park, Howard County on Oct. 12, and Jan Reese estimated about 200 **American Goldfinches** at Tilghman Island on Nov. 24.



## **FORK-TAILED FLYCATCHER (*TYRANNUS SAVANA*) IN ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND**

**KYLE RAMBO**

On September 22, 1997 at approximately 4:20 p.m., I received a call at work from Mary Piotrowski. Mary is a naturalist and environmental educator for the St. Mary's County schools. She was calling me on a cellular phone from her car to ask for my help in identifying a bird she did not recognize. She told me that she was pulled off on the side of Yowalski Mill Road in her Mechanicsville neighborhood. While driving down the road, she noticed a bird perched on the telephone wires which she had never seen before. With obvious excitement and curiosity, she described a bird "about the size of a robin, with a white throat and belly, gray back, black head, and a forked tail about two or three feet long." She reported that the bird was actively feeding by flying down into a field of *Artemesia* and then returning to the wire with a caterpillar, grasshopper, or other insect. After trying to find a picture of this bird in her field guide (Peterson Guide to Eastern Birds, 4th ed.), she told me that the only bird with a tail like that was a tropicbird! Of course, from her description, I immediately recognized the bird as a Fork-tailed Flycatcher and suggested that she look at the pages in the back of the book that contain accidental species. After just a few moments, she excitedly confirmed my identification.

When I told Mary that she was looking at one of the most exciting finds ever in St. Mary's County, her enthusiasm grew even more. I asked if she could stay with the bird until I arrived, and follow it wherever it might go. She readily agreed and gave me her cell phone number, even allowing me to give the number to other chasers who would soon be on their way and in need of instructions or updates. I thanked her for the call (and her incredible luck) and told her to brace herself for an invasion of fanatical birders. The experience of a hot bird chase was new to her, but she now sensed my excitement and shared in it. I hung up the phone and made a few phone calls, one to Tyler Bell, setting off the Southern Maryland rare bird "phone tree." I stopped along the way at my home in Hollywood, picked up my kids, made a few more phone calls, and checked in with Mary on the status of the bird. She reported that it was still at the same location and still feeding actively, but urged me to hurry. Patty Craig met me at my house and followed us to Mechanicsville. We arrived at about 5:30 p.m. and found Mary sitting on the side of the road with a curious neighbor. Several other cars began to arrive at about the same time. I pulled off the road, looked to my right out the car window, and saw an adult Fork-tailed Flycatcher perched on some tall weeds in the field alongside the road. A life bird without yet leaving the car!

I stepped out of the car and confirmed for Mary the identity of her "special" bird. As a group of birders gathered on the side of the road, the bird flew back up to the wire with an insect in its bill — almost straight over our heads. As Mary had described, we saw a medium-sized bird with a white throat and underside, dark wings, gray back, and black cap. Of course, its most prominent feature was the long, forked black tail — almost a foot in length. The tip of the longest tail feather on the bird's left side was broken off. The tail fluttered wildly like the tail of a kite whenever the bird flew — hovering just before landing on either the weeds or the wire. Some observers reported seeing a yellow patch on the top of the head, a feature I failed to observe. The only color I saw on the bird's head was a small patch of bright pinkish-purple just

below the bird's right eye. Speculation says that it was probably juice from pokeberries that the bird was reported to be eating occasionally between meals of insects. After eating, the bird would repeatedly utter a soft *phit* or *pik* call, and could also be heard producing a clicking sound with its bill. Patty Craig and I both photographed the bird at distances sometimes as close as 15 to 20 feet.

In addition to Patty and me, other observers who arrived to see the bird that first evening included Shirley Woods, Tyler Bell, Jane Kostenko, Tommy Wright, Ryan Rambo (age 7), and Johanna Rambo (age 5). Everyone present thanked Mary profusely for sharing such a find and also for her willingness to "host" the bird for visiting birders — those already present, as well as the dozens yet to come. Jane Kostenko agreed to post the sighting on the Internet via *BirdChat* and *MarVaDel*. Several people agreed to produce documentation of the sighting. Patty and I stayed with the bird until almost sunset (about 6:20 p.m.), when the bird flew off. It stopped briefly on a wire near a house and barn about 200 yards across the field, away from the road. It then disappeared from sight behind the house, perhaps all the way back into the woods. Several minutes of driving around the area failed to turn up the bird again that night. I returned home and made several more phone calls to birders throughout the region. While dozens of people observed the bird for most of the following day, Tuesday, September 23, it was not present when I returned in the evening with a video camera to film it. It was apparently last seen between 4 and 6 p.m. Mary Piotrowski and many others made a valiant but unsuccessful search for the bird over the next few days, with Mary providing updates to anyone who called — either at her home or on her cell phone. Thanks to Jane who kept the curious posted via the Internet. Congratulations to Mary and many thanks again for her generous hospitality and cooperation in hosting this incredible bird.

24885 Morgan Road, Hollywood, MD 20636

## INDIGO BUNTING SEEN IN JANUARY AT SPARROWS POINT, BALTIMORE COUNTY

ROBERTA ROSS

Over a period of twelve days in January 1997, my co-workers and I saw an Indigo Bunting (*Passerina cyanea*) visiting a window bird feeder at our office building, the main office of the Bethlehem Steel Company plant in Sparrows Point.

The plant is a heavy industrial site located on low ground, close to water in several directions. We can see the blast furnace and the smokestacks in the mills from our windows. The building is a large 3-story brick building with many windows. It is on a big lot with many large old trees surrounding it, including sweet gum and willow oak trees. The ground near us tends to flood when there are heavy rains.

Over the last six years, we have listed 57 species seen from the windows of this building, mostly in the nearest trees or at feeders, but also including some flyovers such as Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*). Several people here are interested in feeding birds. Four or five feeders were at various windows of the building. I had a feeder with sunflower seed and one with

thistle and saw mostly House Finches (*Carpodacus mexicanus*) and American Goldfinches (*Carduelis tristis*).

The winter of 1996-97 seemed mild, but the weather at the beginning of the week was not especially warm. We did have some warmer weather later in the week. The trees were bare and there was no snow.

The bird was first observed on January 13, 1997, by Jon Cupp at his second-floor feeder. He thought it was an Indigo Bunting. All that week, people on the second floor noticed the blue bird.

The following week Jon came up to the third floor to see if we had noticed the bunting. He told me to look for a very blue bird. Later that day I saw it flying around in the sweet gum tree about 20 feet away. The brilliant blue color was very evident when the light was on the bird's breast. The next day David Krus saw the bird from his window feeder, also on the third floor. His is a plastic feeder with suction cups that attach to the window, and it has a small platform so birds can stand on it. The seed was an inexpensive wild bird seed mix with much millet in it, obtained from the supermarket.

Now we could see the bunting just a couple of feet away. He was a little smaller than the House Finches at the feeder. He had a very brilliant blue breast and brown on the top of the head and on the wings, sort of a blotchy look around the edges as if he might be changing plumage. Jon Cupp and I both thought this bird was a male Indigo Bunting. We have both been birding in Baltimore County over ten years and have seen many Indigo Buntings in breeding plumage. Although this bird was not exactly like the pictures, the bill and size were right, eliminating the possibility of a Blue Grosbeak (*Guiraca caerulea*). The blue color was observed by several other people in the office.

Indigo Bunting did not appear on our window list previously, and I do not recall seeing one at Sparrows Point in previous years, but we do get many migrant species in these trees in the spring. This is the first Indigo Bunting I have seen anywhere in January.

Over the next few days, the Indigo Bunting came back to this feeder each day and was able to eat, although the House Finches would chase him away. These House Finches were behaving aggressively toward each other before the bunting turned up. A couple of them showed signs of eye disease, including one that seemed to be completely blind in one eye and could see his rivals for the feeder only when they approached on his good eye's side, but he still managed to place himself so he saw the others coming and tried to chase them off. There was also a House Finch that was a yellow color variant. All of these House Finches would try to chase the blue bird away and flap and make noises at him, and sometimes he would retreat to the near trees and come back later, and sometimes he would just fly away.

We saw him eating at the feeder around mid-morning every day through January 24, which was the last time we saw him.

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